ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Richard III's victory

What if the Yorkist king had crushed the Tudor dynasty?



CLASH OF CROWNS

1066

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- Inside the Norman war machine
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Ancient Petra
The CIA vs communism
Battle of Sedan



Karl Marx's revolution

How one man's writing changed the world

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The bad boy of Baroque

Exposed: the scandals of killer artist Caravaggio



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GUERNSEY POST



On page 56, uncover the dark and twisted life of the legendary artist Caravaggio

Welcome

1066. It's the most important year in English history – the year the Norse, Normans and Saxons clashed in their struggle to win the crown. The decisive Battle of Hastings was fought 950 years ago this October, and the outcome changed the nation forever.

The English language, for instance, is a mixture of William the Conqueror's native French blended with the Anglo-Saxon tongue. Traditional names like Harold and Godwin fell out of favour and French names such as William and Henry became common, and have remained popular ever since.

It wasn't just culture and society that was affected, as castles were erected all over the country – symbols of the Normans' dominance over their newly conquered lands. Churches, cathedrals and monasteries were constructed, as was the imposing White Tower of London, which served as a fortress and occasional royal residence. The birth of modern England had begun, and the country would never be the same again. This issue, uncover the epic story of the year that changed history.



Jodie

Jodie Tyley
Editor

Editor's picks



Make a Hunnic bow
Discover how the Huns crafted their deadly reflex bows – a weapon that helped to build an empire. Expert Professor Peter Heather explains all.



What if King Richard III had lived?
Author and historian Matt Lewis imagines what could have happened if Henry Tudor had been defeated at the Battle of Bosworth.



Weird weddings
We round-up some of the most bizarre and often brutal rituals in the world of weddings, and find out the origins of today's most popular traditions.

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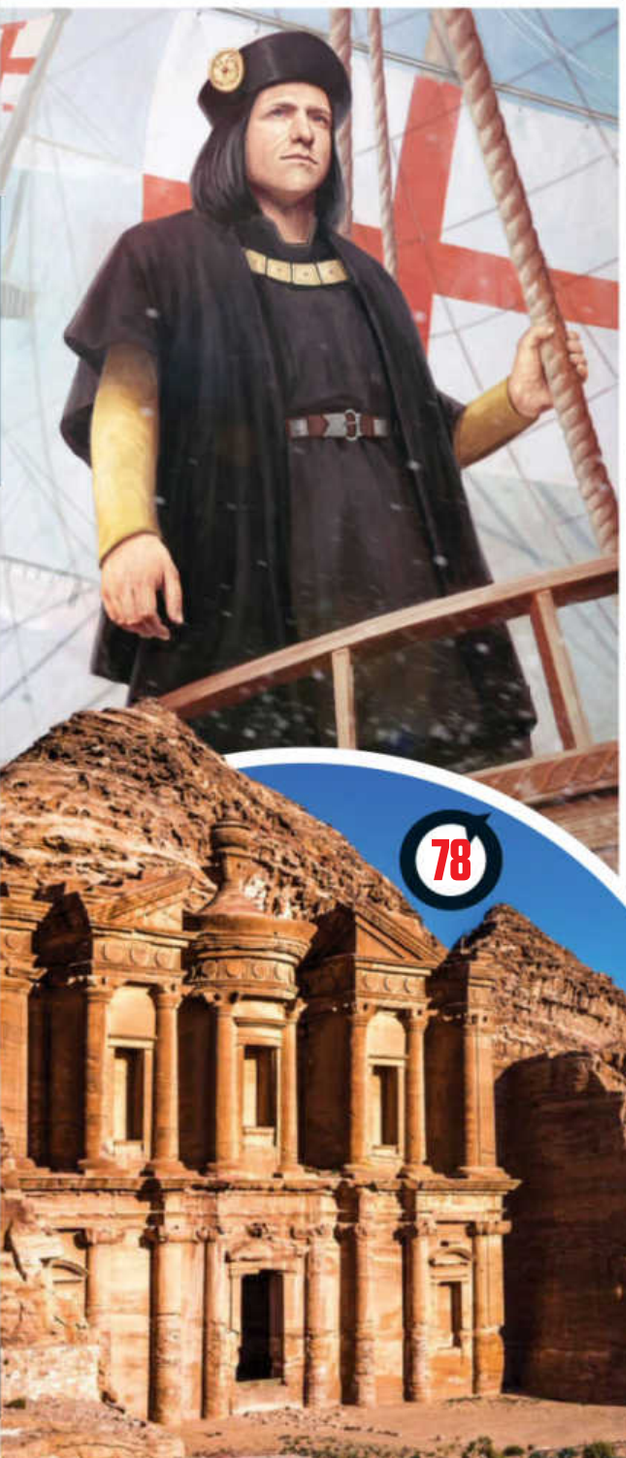




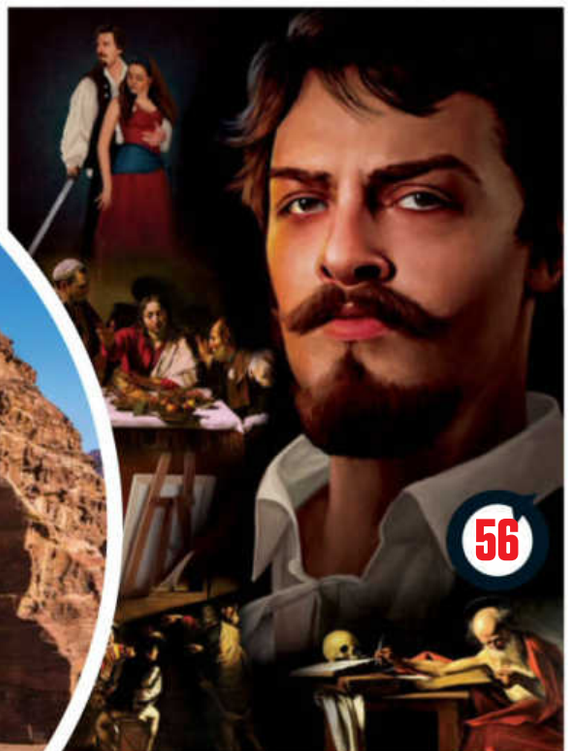




52 What if
What would have happened if Richard III had triumphed at Bosworth?







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HISTORY IN PICTURES

WAR IS A LOTTERY

Blindfolded US Secretary of War Newton D Baker draws numbers of the draft lottery from a glass bowl on 21 July 1917. This lottery determined the order – by birthday – in which conscripts would join the American forces to fight in World War I alongside allies Britain, France and Russia. President Woodrow Wilson had the authority to conscript men under the Selective Training and Service Act.

1917


331
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© Alamy





HISTORY IN PICTURES

25 YEARS OF THE BERLIN WALL

West Berlin protesters campaign on the 25th anniversary of the closure of the border on 13 August 1986. They are pictured here abusing German Democratic Republic soldiers at Checkpoint Charlie – the best-known border crossing between West and East Berlin. Built during the Cold War, the wall prevented emigration. Unification wasn't started until the wall was breached on 9 November 1989.

1986

© TopFoto



HISTORY IN COLOUR

BRITAIN WILL FIGHT ON

Winston Churchill holds a Tommy gun during an inspection of invasion defences near Hartlepool on 31 July 1940. This photograph was used for propaganda purposes by both sides in the war. For the British, it came to symbolise the steely resolve to fight on amid calls for peace talks with Hitler, while the Germans portrayed the prime minister as an American gangster, wanted for "incitement to murder".

1940



© TopFoto

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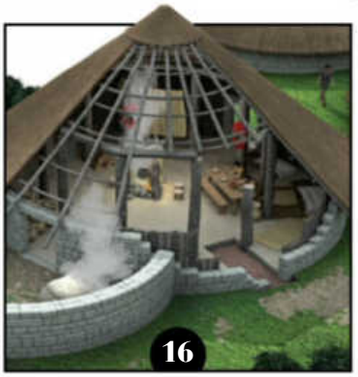
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Barbarians across history

Discover a few of the fierce 'barbaric' warriors whose battle for freedom raged for hundreds of years

HANNIBAL CROSSES THE ALPS

Hannibal's army comprises

38,000 INFANTRY **8,000** CAVALRY **38** ELEPHANTS

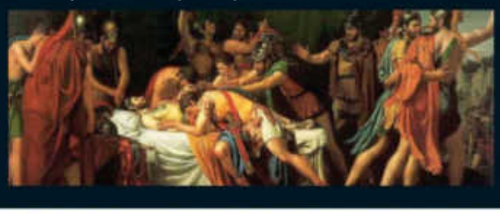
He defeats the Romans in **THREE** GREAT BATTLES: the Trebia, Lake Trasimene, and Cannae.

15 YEARS The amount of time he occupies much of Italy, but during which he is never able to capture Rome.

218 BCE

DEATH OF VIRIATHUS

Betrayed and murdered in his sleep, Viriathus had led the Lusitanians in a decade's worth of resistance to Rome. His death effectively ends the last rebellion against Roman dominion over the entirety of the Hispanic peninsula.



139 BCE

BATTLE OF ADRIANOPLE

Valens becomes the **SECOND**



Roman Emperor to die in battle against the Goths (the first was the little known Decius in 251).

TWO-THIRDS

of the east Roman field army **(c.10,000 men)** is killed in one day.

SIXTEEN elite infantry regiments are never reformed.

378

GOTHS CROSS THE DANUBE

Under pressure from the Huns, two Gothic groups cross the Danube – one with Roman permission, one without. They quickly unite in revolt under the leadership of Fritigern.



376

THE RAIN MIRACLE OF MARCUS AURELIUS



While the emperor is fighting north of the Danube, in one of a series of campaigns he has to mount over 15 years from 166 to re-pacify his European frontiers, his army becomes desperately short of water. A rain miracle quenches the legionaries' thirst and allows them to defeat the enemies who thought they had them trapped.

173

ROME SACKED

Alaric's Goths sack Rome when his attempt to force the Western Empire into a long-term agreement fails. His recently created force – the Visigoths – consists of the Goths of 376, together with a large number of other barbarians. Settled in Gaul in 418, it will go on to form an independent kingdom.

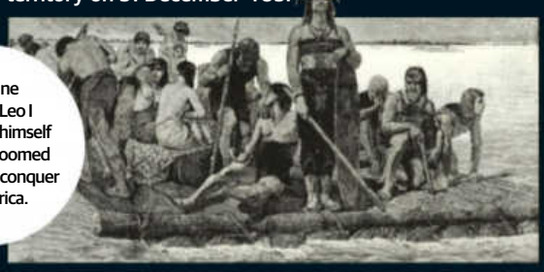


Byzantine Emperor Leo I bankrupted himself in 468 in a doomed attempt to reconquer North Africa.

410

GEISERIC CAPTURES CARTHAGE

By capturing the richest North African provinces of the Western Roman Empire, Geiseric condemns it to extinction. His followers are the remnants of a huge coalition that crossed the river Rhine onto Roman territory on 31 December 405.



439

ATTILA DEFEATS THEODOSIUS II

After earlier successes in 442, Attila the Hun unleashes the full might of his army – consisting not only of Huns but also of huge numbers of conquered subject peoples – on the Eastern Roman Empire. In one year, he wins two great victories, and forces the Emperor Theodosius to pay 6,000 Roman pounds (approximately 2,000 kilograms) of gold for peace.



447

BATTLE OF AQUAE SEXTIAE



Taking place near modern Aix-en-Provence, this Roman victory marks the end of the great tribes of the Cimbri and Teutones. The prisoners taken became gladiators and are said to have fought in Spartacus's rebellion.

102 BCE

REVOLT OF SPARTACUS



Spartacus gathers up to 120,000 escaped gladiators and other slaves, and defeats the first three Roman armies sent against him, equipping his forces from the dead. He is defeated only when eight whole legions – approximately 40,000 fully trained men – are sent against him in 71 BCE.

73 BCE

CAESAR DEFEATS ARIOVISTUS

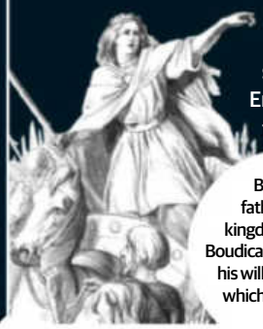


70,000 Germanic-speaking tribesmen under the leadership of Ariovistus try to take advantage of the Gallic War to conquer new territories west of the Rhine, but are defeated by 30,000 Romans under the command of Julius Caesar.

58 BCE

BOUDICA REVOLTS

The queen of the British Iceni leads 100,000 followers in revolt, defeating the 9th Legion and burning the Roman centres of Colchester, St Albans and London. Her eventual defeat marks the total subjugation of England and Wales to Roman rule.



Boudica's father left his kingdom jointly to Boudica and Rome, but his will was ignored, which sparked the revolt.

60/61 CE

BATTLE OF THE TEUTOBURG FOREST



Arminius, the leader of a large coalition of Rome's rebellious Germanic subjects, defeats the general Varus. The Roman force of more than 20,000 men is annihilated in a three-day running battle, which eventually leads Rome to evacuate the territory it claimed between the Rhine and Elbe.

9 CE

VERCINGETORIX DEFEATED BY CAESAR AT ALESIA

Gauls outnumber Romans

FOUR TO ONE

Caesar's fortifications are **16KM LONG,** incorporating **24 TOWERS** and **3 DEEP TRENCHES** complete with sharpened, fire-hardened stakes.

The Roman senate declares

20 DAYS

of thanksgiving for the victory.

A relief force of 250,000 Gauls came to free the 80,000 trapped inside the Roman fortifications.

52 BCE

THE END OF ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS

In September 476, the military commander in Italy, a Suevic prince called Odoacer, deposes the last Western emperor. The territory of the Western Empire is divided between a series of barbarian-dominated successor states.



476

BAPTISM OF CLOVIS



Shortly after his great victory over the Visigoths at Vouille, at the urging of his wife, the Frankish King Clovis converts to Catholicism. He founds the most powerful of the west Roman successor states, which will go on to become a dominant force in the second half of the first millennium.

507

CHARLEMAGNE CROWNED EMPEROR IN ROME

Empire is revived in western Europe for the first time since 476, but Charlemagne's powerbase is north-western and north-central Europe, not the Mediterranean. What was barbarian Europe has now turned into the new centre of empire.



Every empire has its barbarians, and the Vikings were Charlemagne's, terrorising western Europe.

CHRISTMAS DAY 800

© Alamy

INSIDE HISTORY

A CELTIC ROUNDHOUSE

THE CHARACTERISTIC DWELLING OF THE CELTIC WORLD FOR MORE THAN 1,000 YEARS
2ND MILLENNIUM BCE TO 1ST MILLENNIUM CE

Celtic tribes lived in small farming communities, often in hill forts defended by ditches and ramparts for added protection. The largest in the British Isles had 1,000 inhabitants but most were smaller, with roundhouses the most common dwelling-type. On the continent, larger settlements of up to 10,000 people are known, reflecting a more developed production and exchange economy.

Celtic society was dominated by a warrior aristocracy, and the grandest fought from horseback or chariots. The largest roundhouses belonged to them and the smallest belonged to the hereditary slave class. Celtic society was also distinguished by the existence of classes of professional druids, responsible for all religious ritual; lawyers, who maintained widespread cultural norms; and bards, who celebrated the deeds of great men.

The larger hill fort settlements were also centres of production and exchange. Use of coins became widespread in the Celtic world in the 3rd century BCE, and an international trade in slaves, weapons, jewellery and other goods thrived.

Conical Structure
All Celtic roundhouses were conical in shape. They could vary in diameter from five to 15 metres for a really grand dwelling. To make the roof, a wooden frame was created to establish the basic structure, which was then filled out with thatch, before the whole building, inside and out, was plastered over with a layer of clay and manure.

Raw materials
Wood and stone were the elemental building materials. A large round house would need about 30 oak posts and rafters, and around 3,200 reeds of wattle (woven wood) and daub (straw and mud) for the walls. Reeds and hemp were used to create the thatched roof and 15 tons of clay and dung was required for the plastering.

Barns and storage
Food processing and storage were very important to Iron Age Celtic populations, who needed to keep themselves fed between harvests. Meat and fish could be hung, smoked, or salted in custom-built barns. Grain was usually stored in pits or in ceramic storage vessels.

Collecting water
Water supply for drinking, cooking and washing – for humans and animals – was insured by the careful collection of rainwater or by carrying it from a nearby spring. Where the option was available, wells and holes in the ground were built in the patios of the houses, which served as drinking fountains for domestic animals.



Clothing
Celts wore long-sleeved shirts or tunics and long trousers. According to wealth, these garments were made from wool, linen, or even, if the family was rich and lived closer to the Mediterranean, silk. Cloaks were made of wool and kept in place with brooches (fibulae).

The hearth
A fire for cooking and heating the house was maintained in a hearth at the centre of the house. There was no hole in the roof because the resulting updraft would have set light to the thatch. The pots used to cook food were supported with ropes on wooden poles.

Layout
Regular daily activities had allotted spaces within the home. Sleeping, working, storage, and food preparation were confined to precise areas of the interior, leading to the belief that some kind of ritual ideology of ordered space was shared by Celtic populations.

Did you know?
One of the biggest settlements in Britain was Colchester, believed to be the oldest town in the country.

Furnishing the home
Iron Age Celts used few pieces of furniture to make the most of the space available to them, but traces of benches, stools, tables and rush mat beds have been found. Sometimes, tables were only mounds of earth located next to the internal walls of the dwelling. Animal skins and woven woollen cloths were hung to provide extra insulation.

Baking
Ovens for baking grains into bread were located outside. Turning grains into bread rather than porridge became increasingly common under Mediterranean influence in the centuries either side of the beginning of the Common Era.

Foundations
The floor was prepared using a layer of stones with another layer on top made with beaten clay. If carefully maintained, and often supplemented with layers of fresh straw, this would prevent the house from turning into a quagmire even in the worst rains of winter.

© Sagaio Images

How to BUILD A HUNNIC BOW

NO SELF-RESPECTING HUNNIC NOMAD WOULD LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEIR BOW – A WEAPON TO BUILD AN EMPIRE NORTH OF THE BLACK SEA (MODERN UKRAINE), 375

In the 50 years after 375, the Huns built an empire in central and eastern Europe largely thanks to an improved version of the composite recurve bow that had long been known on the Eurasian Steppes. It provided enough extra hitting power, combined with the right battlefield tactics, for Hunnic horse archers to pose a stark choice to hundreds of thousands of Rome's frontier client states: they could either accept Hunnic conquest and be exploited economically and militarily or abandon their old homes, as the Visigoths did, for new dangers inside the Roman Empire. A generation later, in the time of Attila, the new empire had become powerful enough to challenge Rome itself.

Relaxed, unstrung, bow

The composite bow curved away from the archer. Developed in the 2nd millennium BCE, it generated a lot of power from a short pull.

Siyahs

Bone or antler stiffeners made to be an integral part of the bow's structure were introduced from the 4th century BCE and heightened arrow velocity.

Grip

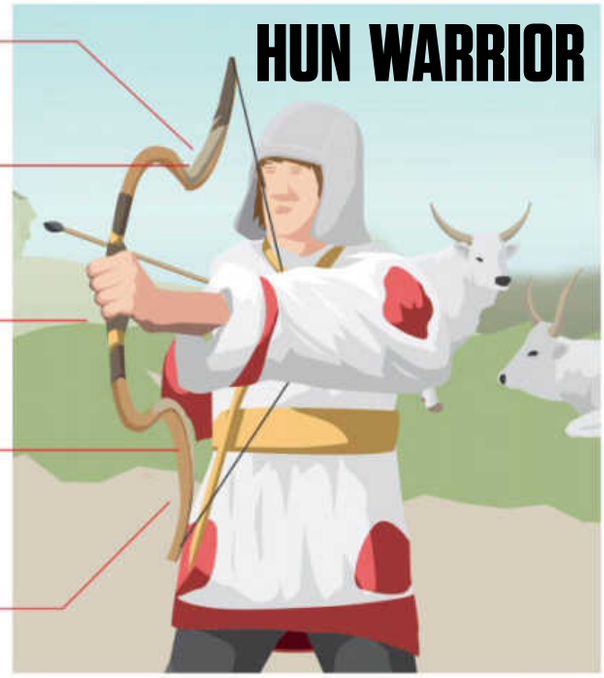
The sides of the bow and the back of the grip were strengthened with three horn strips, which increased its power.

Sinew

Glue-soaked sinew from wild game was glued to the outside of the bow. When drawn, the sinew generated greater tension than if it was made solely from wood.

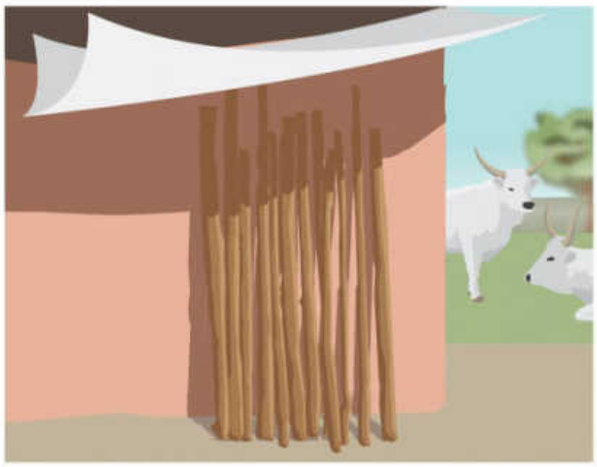
Horn strips (laths)

Strips of horn were glued to the inside of the bow. When drawn, the horn compressed more than the wood to which it was attached.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED





01 Season the wood

The wood must be left for a year or more to dry out properly, otherwise it will distort the shape of your finished bow as it continues to dry. It needs to be able to endure intense stress and take glue well, so dense hardwoods such as those from the mulberry family, maple, or, in China, bamboo, are traditionally used.



02 Make animal glue

Break animal hooves into small pieces and add water to cover. Boil until the hoof material is completely liquefied and add an acid of your choice to create a thick gel. Then soak sinews taken from the rear limbs and backs of wild game, such as antelopes, in the glue. Sinews from domestic animals are inferior because of their higher fat content.

How Hunnic bows challenged the might of Rome

Hunnic use of the bow was as important as the bow itself in conquering Rome's European neighbours in the late-4th and early-5th centuries. It was used to break up order in enemy ranks by hitting from a distance, in feigning retreat and shooting over the back of a galloping horse, and by carefully constructed ambush and outflanking manoeuvres.

In 447, the armies of Attila – consisting both of Huns and manpower from the many subjects of the Hunnic Empire – defeated the Balkan and central field armies of the Eastern Roman Empire. This had never happened before and would never be repeated. Hunnic archery and cavalry tactics forced a complete rethink in the military doctrines of Roman armies.

By 500, Roman cavalry were no longer used only for reconnaissance and flank protection. The general Belisarius conquered the Vandals with 5,000 cavalry, many equipped with Hunnic bows, and 10,000 infantry, but the infantry never fired a shot in anger.





03 Create the bow

Make V-shaped cuts in the wood and fill them with glue to create the bow's basic recurve form. This means that when it's unstrung, the bow bends away from you. The Hunnic version is asymmetric, as the longer top half generates more power. The bottom half cannot be increased without getting in the way of the horse's neck when riding into battle.



04 Glue the horn

Slices of horn (laths) need to be glued to the inside of the bow facing the archer so it will compress more than the wood when the bow is drawn. It must come from the Hungarian Gray, however, as most cattle horn will delaminate over time. Hunnic bows differ from earlier types by reinforcing the grip with three further laths of bone.



05 Glue the sinew

Glue the soaked sinew to the outside of the bow – it will extend more than the wood when the bow is drawn. Between them, the compressed horn and stretched sinew add much greater velocity to the arrow release than if the bow were just made of wood. Especially for mounted archers, this allows a maximised hitting power to be generated from a restricted pull.



06 Secure the bone tips

Glue the stiffened bone or antler tips to the ends of the bow (earlier versions had stiffening laths rather than integral bone or antler tips). By adding a final rigidity to bow tips, where the bowstring is attached, these again help maximise arrow velocity upon release. All that's left is to be patient – bows take at least a year to dry out fully before they can be strung.

4 EVENTS... IN THE HUNNIC EMPIRE



ROME FORTIFIED

411, CONSTANTINOPLE

In 411, fearful of the new Hunnic menace, Theodosius II orders the construction of a new triple belt of fortifications. It will keep his capital safe for 1,000 years.



ATTILA BREAKS THROUGH 442, SIRMIUM

Attila's first successful siege of a major Roman fortress, which guarded the highway to Constantinople, marks the opening of a decade of Hunnic conquest.



POPE'S MISSION

452, THE ROAD TO ROME

Pope Leo the Great famously leads an embassy to Attila and persuades the great conqueror not to sack the city of Rome.



MARCIAN'S DREAM

453, CONSTANTINOPLE

On the night Attila the Hun dies, the Emperor Marcian has a dream that the conqueror's personal bow lays broken.

© Ed Crooks

Hall of Fame

BARBARIAN CHIEFS

Meet the ruthless rebels that led revolts against Rome

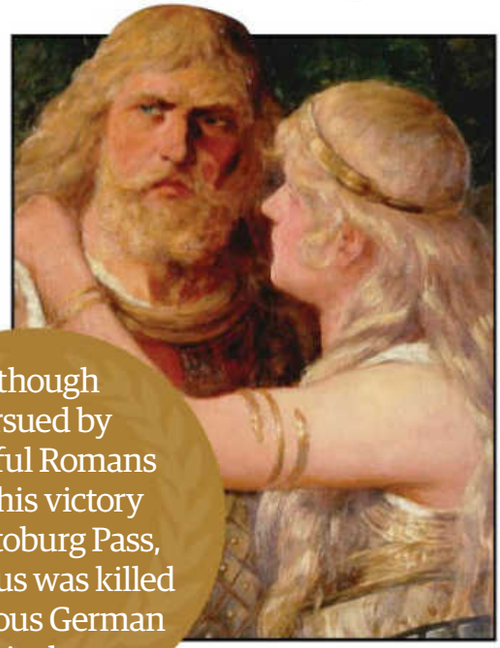


Britain's warrior queen unleashed fury on occupying Roman forces

BOUDICA

BRITISH UNKNOWN-C.61 CE

The queen of the Iceni tribe of East Anglia was flogged and her daughters raped when Roman administrators attempted to steal her inheritance. Fighting for justice and freedom, she led the British tribes in revolt against the occupying Roman forces. They attacked Colchester, London and St Albans, slaughtering an estimated 70,000 people and burning the Roman settlements to the ground. However, the governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinus eventually bested the warrior queen at the Battle of Watling Street. Boudica is thought to have poisoned herself to evade capture.



Although pursued by vengeful Romans after his victory at Teutoburg Pass, Arminius was killed by jealous German rivals

ARMINIUS

GERMAN 18/17 BCE – 21 CE

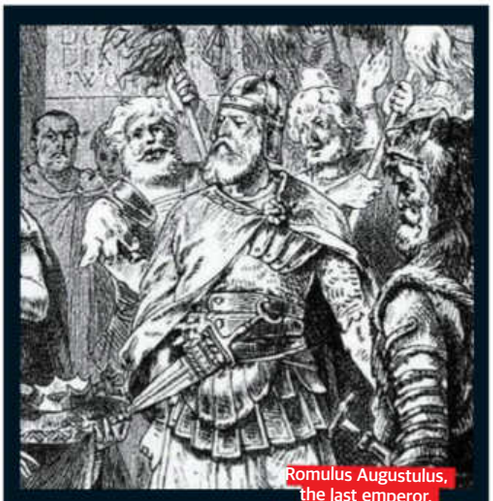
Raised in Rome as a hostage, Arminius became a trusted auxiliary to the legions bent on conquering his native Germany. So when Arminius told the governor, Publius Quinctilius Varus, of a revolt, Varus had no hesitation in letting Arminius guide three legions into the forest. But Arminius had tricked him. He had forged alliances with the German tribes, and after luring the legions deep into enemy territory in Teutoburg Forest, they were devastatingly attacked. Strung out, the legions were annihilated and Varus fell on his sword. The battle was one of the most decisive in history and halted the empire's expansion into northern Europe.



ALARIC

GOTHIC 370-410

King Alaric I was the barbarian who finally did what many others had been trying to do for centuries: sack the city of Rome. When he achieved this feat, he was the ruler of the Visigoths, northern European tribesmen who sometimes partnered with the Romans, until they refused to pay any more. In a bid to secure land, Alaric and his people had besieged Rome twice but Emperor Honorius, holed up in Ravenna and protected by the surrounding marshes, refused to negotiate with them. However, everything changed on the night of 23 August 410, when rebellious slaves opened the Salarian Gate. For three days, the Visigoths plundered the Eternal City, although with more restraint than usual: this was about asset stripping rather than rape and looting. The city had not been taken by an enemy for nearly 800 years and this marked the beginning of the end of the Roman Empire.



Romulus Augustulus, the last emperor, surrenders his crown to the barbarian Odoacer

ODOACER

UNKNOWN C.433 – 15 MARCH 493

Odoacer is known for deposing the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire and becoming the first barbarian king of Italy. Like many barbarian warriors, Odoacer found employment with the remnants of the Roman army under the command of Orestes, the 'master of soldiers'. But when Orestes appointed his son, Romulus Augustulus, as emperor and refused reward for his men, Odoacer killed Orestes and deposed Romulus. However, so powerless had the emperor become that Odoacer let Romulus live, even giving him a pension.



Clovis, the first king of the new Europe

CLOVIS

FRANKISH C.466 – 27 NOVEMBER 511

The reign of Clovis, the first king of the Franks, marked a decisive shift from warlords fighting over the last pickings of the Roman Empire to kings ruling new kingdoms. Clovis's father, Childeric, was a pagan; his tomb contained a gold bull's head and 300 garnet-set gold bees. But Clovis, under the influence of his wife, Clotilde, converted to Catholicism, setting the religious template for his people. By this time, Clovis had already conquered the smaller Frankish kingdoms and, in 486, he defeated the last representative of the waning imperial power at the Battle of Soissons. Though king, Clovis had no interest in proclaiming himself emperor.



CHARLES MARTEL

FRANKISH C.688 – 22 OCTOBER 741

The line of Frankish kings founded by Clovis had, two centuries later, become figureheads. The real power lay with the mayor of the palace: Charles 'the hammer' Martel. Charles reunited the Frankish kingdom and then faced the latest in the Muslim assaults on Europe. At the Battle of Tours, he defeated Abd-ar-Rahman, the governor of the Kingdom of Cordoba. Some 60 years after Charles's death, his grandson, Charlemagne, was crowned the first Holy Roman emperor. The barbarians had come full circle.

VERCINGETORIX

GALLIC C.82-46 BCE

Julius Caesar had all but completed the conquest of Gaul when Vercingetorix, leader of the Averni, led an uprising in 52 BCE. He defeated the Roman general at the Battle of Gergovia but was later forced to retreat to his stronghold at Alesia. When attempts to lift the siege failed, Vercingetorix surrendered and was kept as a captive for five years. He was then paraded at Caesar's triumph and finally strangled.



Attila was joint ruler of the Huns with his elder brother, Bleda, until he is thought to have murdered him



Attila, the most famous and the most feared barbarian king

ATTILA

HUNNISH C.410-453

The most famous barbarian of all first attacked the Eastern Empire, forcing it to pay annual tribute, but he needed a pretext to attack the Western Empire. In 450, the Roman emperor's sister provided it. Honoria, having had an affair and become pregnant, had been betrothed to an elderly senator. Determined to escape, she sent a letter and her ring to Attila, asking for aid. Attila demanded half the Western Empire as dowry and invaded, but the battle was inconclusive and led to Attila's retreat.



Italy came under Gothic rule when Theodoric murdered Odoacer

THEODORIC

GOTHIC 454 – 30 AUGUST 526

Theodoric led his people, the Ostro ('eastern') Goths, into Italy in 489, defeating Odoacer in battle and besieging him for three years in Ravenna. When Theodoric could not take the city, he negotiated a shared rule, entered the city then murdered Odoacer. After its bloody beginning, Theodoric strove to maintain peace for the rest of his rule, encouraging his people to treat their Roman subjects well.

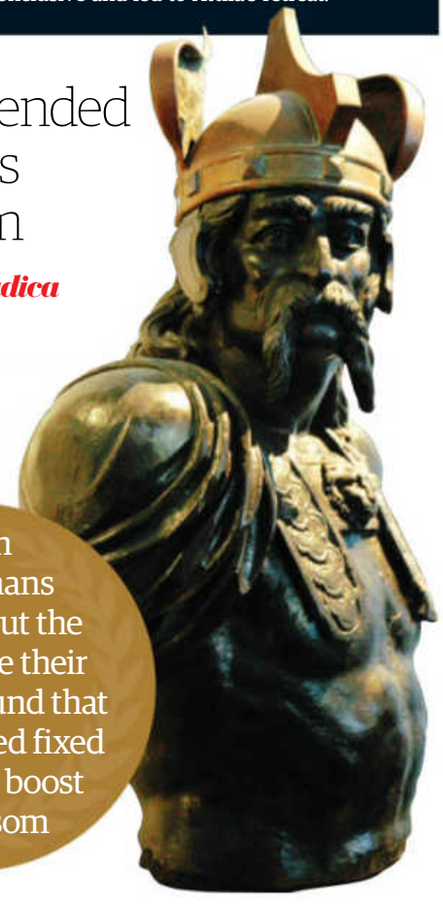
"It is not as a woman descended from noble ancestry, but as one of the people that I am avenging lost freedom" ***Boudica***

BRENNUS

GALLIC 4TH CENTURY BCE – C.387 BCE

Brennus achieved what it would take barbarian warlords nearly another 800 years to repeat: the taking of the city of Rome. A Roman army met the Gauls 18 kilometres north of the city in July 387 BCE - and was annihilated. The panicked citizens fled, leaving only the Capitoline Hill defended, and the Gauls proceeded to sack Rome. Brennus and his men besieged the Capitoline for seven months: according to legend, the defenders were alerted to one night-time assault by the honking of the sacred geese in the temple of Juno. In the end, the Romans were forced to buy their salvation with gold.

When the Romans weighed out the gold to save their city, they found that Brennus used fixed weights to boost the ransom



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THE Anatomy of SUEBIAN WARRIOR

GERMANIA, 1ST CENTURY CE



SUEBIAN KNOT

THE ORIGINAL TOP-KNOT

Freemen distinguished themselves from slaves with this elaborate hairstyle. Their long hair was combed sideways, twisted back and then tied into a knot. Rather than being a fashion statement, the style was sometimes used to add height, making the warrior look more impressive in battle.

SPEAR

SHARP TO THE POINT

A Suebian warrior's main weapon was a spearheaded lance or 'framea' that could be thrust at the enemy from close range or thrown from a distance. It was often gifted to them, along with their cloak, at a young age, and they would train to use it throughout their childhood.

SWORD AND DAGGER

A BELT FOR ALL BATTLES

Stored on their leather belt, each warrior had a selection of weaponry at their disposal. They had a long double-edged iron sword, a small dagger and sometimes even a selection of lightweight javelins, so they were ready for battle in either open fields, forests or swamps.

CLOAK

A TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

Pinned at the shoulder with a brooch, their long rectangular or circular cloaks often featured bright colours and bold patterns as a sign of pride in battle. They were typically made from woven wool, but could also be produced from animal skins and sometimes had a fur lining for added warmth.

WOODEN SHIELD

A WALL OF WARRIORS

Standing in rows to create a shield wall and then pushing aggressively forward towards the enemy was a popular Suebian battle technique. The simple shields were made of wicker or wooden planks, painted with a blazon, and featured an iron boss in the centre to protect the holder's hand.

WOOLLEN CLOTHING

A WARRIOR IN SHEEP'S ARMOUR

Speed was a Suebian warrior's biggest advantage in battle so they preferred to fight without heavy, and not to mention expensive, metal armour slowing them down. Instead, they wore loose-fitting woollen trousers and tunics, or even fought nude or semi-nude if the weather was warm enough.

© Kevin McGivern

Day in the life

ALARIC, KING OF THE GOTHS

LEADING THOUSANDS OF GOTHS ON ROMAN SOIL, OUTSIDE ROME, MAY 410

Alaric came to power in 395, taking charge of 10,000-plus Gothic warriors and their families who had been settled on Roman soil since 382. In return for autonomy, the Goths had agreed to fight for the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius. But the new relationship was doomed to fail. Theodosius put his soldiers on the front line of the Battle of the Frigidus in September 394, and the Goths suffered huge casualties. Fearing that those in power in the Eastern Empire were looking for an opportunity to obliterate their independence, Alaric led the Goths in rebellion on Theodosius's death in January 395.

WEAPONS CHECK

Alaric was a warrior king at the head of army, so the state of his equipment was of primary concern. He used, however, Roman equipment. His first attempt to redefine the Goths' relationship with the empire after 395 saw him appointed as commanding Roman general in the western Balkans between 397 and 399. He used the weapons factories here to equip his men.

MORNING PRAYERS

Alaric was an Arian Christian. He believed in the Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) and Christ's divinity, but understood the Godhead hierarchically, with the Son in a subordinate position to the Father. The Goths accepted Christianity officially when they crossed the Danube into the empire in 376.

CONFERENCE WITH LEADERSHIP GROUP

By 410, Alaric was leader of grand coalition. It combined the Tervingi and Greuthungi, who had crossed into the empire at different points in 376, but who rebelled as a unit in 395. Then Alaric had added many new followers, mainly from the following of Radagaisus in 408/409. The sub-leaders of all these groups maintained their positions and Alaric, with his brother-in-law and designated successor Athaulf, needed to canvass their opinions when making policy.



Alaric's remit was to change the relationship negotiated with Theodosius I, which cost the Goths too many casualties



MORNING COURT

As leader of a brand new confederation of disparate groups, it was Alaric's task to keep the peace among the many different groups who comprised his following. Settling disputes and distributing patronage to the right people took up a great deal of his time. Gifts of weaponry, gold rings and gold jewellery were among the mechanisms that he had at his disposal.

LUNCH AND SUPPLIES

Alaric's Goths had partly supported themselves by farming in the Balkans, however, certainly since they left there for Italy in autumn 408, they had had no access to farmland. Organising food supplies was crucial, and could not be achieved by just foraging alone. By May 410, they had been outside Rome for over a year. The city was largely fed from North Africa, by supplies sent from Carthage, and Alaric tapped into these, as well as ransacking the local agricultural economy, which took a decade to recover.

HUNTING

Hunting was the upper-class pastime par excellence for both Goths and Romans, and was a tradition that continued long into the Middle Ages too. It developed skills that were vital in warfare (horsemanship and the use of weapons), but was also an important social event. The elite would meet in a more informal setting to discuss and settle favours, marriages, and other matters: the Medieval equivalent of corporate golf.

RECEIVE EMBASSIES FROM ROME

Alaric's forces sat outside Rome from winter 408/409 until late summer 410. They could have entered and sacked the city at any point, but Alaric was threatening the city in order to pressure the Western Emperor Honorius, who was living in Ravenna, to come to a diplomatic settlement. Embassies from the Senate and from the emperor's sister Galla Placidia, who was trapped inside Rome, were employed by Alaric to increase the pressure on the emperor.

SURVEY DEFENCES OF ROME BEFORE DINNER

It was not Alaric's desire actually to sack Rome, but if Honorius wouldn't come to an agreement on acceptable terms, then the king knew that he would eventually have to bow to pressure from within his own following to let them loose on the city. So it was important to have Plan B in place. He was eventually forced to put it into practice on 24 August 410.

© Alamy



"By not writing their own histories, the barbarians inadvertently allowed the Romans to write their history for them"

Dr Steve Kershaw

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE BARBARIANS

Now appearing on History's new docu-drama *Barbarians Rising*, we speak to Dr Steve Kershaw about the people the Romans derided and feared in equal measure



Throughout their history, the Romans considered themselves superior to all other peoples and collectively termed any non-Romans as 'barbarians'. It is this disdain for their cultural 'inferiors' that gives the words 'barbarous' and 'barbarity' their present negative connotations, but how did the Romans really view the barbarians? As part of the History Channel's new docu-drama series *Barbarians Rising*, expert contributor Dr Steve Kershaw of Oxford University reflects on these mysterious people and their impact on history.

What did the Romans mean when they referred to people as "barbarians" and how did the term originate?

"The barbarians" refers to anyone who is not culturally Roman and includes people living outside the Roman Empire and people within its borders. It's essentially a cultural description but the term itself is actually not Roman, it's a Greek word. It was the Ancient Greeks who came up with this to mean anyone who was not culturally Greek and didn't speak the Greek language. To their ears, barbarians just went "ba ba ba" so they called them 'barbaroi'. To a Greek, a Roman would actually be a 'barbarian' as well, but the Romans assimilated the term as they admired Greek culture.

How biased were the Romans against barbarians – was there a concept of the 'noble savage'?

That's an interesting question and requires a nuanced answer. The default position is that the Romans regard themselves as superior in pretty much every way. However, they can use barbarians to make points against other Romans and in that respect you can have this idea of a 'noble savage'. You can use a barbarian to make a political point – so in some of the historical writings, Tacitus does this quite a lot. He will put speeches into the mouths of barbarian characters like Boudica or Calgacus and use them to criticise Roman society, morals and political stances. Boudica, for instance, is contrasted very heavily with Nero. Rome sees its mission to 'civilise' the world. There's a great passage in Virgil where he says that the Greeks are good at "culture" but the Romans are good at "ruling", bringing people to heel and creating an empire. Therefore, bringing the barbarians under the empire is a good thing.

Did the barbarians write their own history or is all the evidence for their existence sourced from Roman and archaeological sources?

There is very little in terms of written material coming from the barbarians themselves. One of the challenges that an ancient historian or archaeologist faces is reconciling the narrative you get from the history and the archaeology because they don't always tell you the same story. The barbarians who do speak in the historical accounts are having their words put into their mouths in beautifully termed rhetorical Latin by Roman historians. By not writing their own histories, the barbarians inadvertently allowed the Romans to write their history for them and the Roman victors are very eloquent.

During the revolt of Spartacus of 73-71 BCE, what proportion of slaves came from barbarian lands and did their presence have a significant effect?

The sources for Spartacus's revolt are quite thin on the ground. Its one of those things where it has had more impact than the words actually written. My view is that the slaves involved were pretty much 100 per cent going to be of barbarian origin. Spartacus himself was and the other main figures involved in the revolt were too. Spartacus came from Thrace and others came from Gaul and that indeed was a challenge for the people in the revolt. One of the difficult things that Spartacus had to do was try to keep these disparate groups of barbarians together with a common purpose.

How decisive was Arminius's Germanic victory against the Romans in the Teutoburg Forest in 9 CE? Was it the ultimate barbarian victory?

It was certainly very significant and dictated Roman policy in that area and defined the northern frontier of the Roman Empire from that moment. The Romans got their fingers very badly burned by Arminius, and the conquest of Germania at that point dropped off the radar. They fixed their frontier at the Rhine. It was almost a blow to the new imperial regime of Emperor Augustus too. Because of his exalted status, his policy decisions were often set in stone. Once he'd decided, "That's it," with regards to expansion, then his successors thought that way too.

Why did Germanic peoples begin to migrate into Roman territories around the middle of the 4th century?

The impetus was from the Huns. The people known as the 'Hunni' by the Romans were migrating and they were moving in the direction of the Roman Empire. The various tribes in between them and the empire were terrified of them, couldn't handle them and flinched away. The direction in which they flinched was towards the empire because it was essentially a safe haven for them. Many of them were what we now would call 'refugees' and one could reasonably draw comparisons with the European Union today and the Roman Empire in that there was a 'refugee crisis' and the Romans didn't handle it very well.

What is the barbarian legacy today?

It's a really interesting one. There's a sense in which they bring down the Roman Empire, although this is not necessarily a popular view. A lot of people now dismiss this idea of the 'decline and fall of the Roman Empire' and they look more to a 'transformation' of the Roman world, so they'll see it as more of a process rather than an event. It also depends on who you talk to. On the one hand, the barbarians bringing down the Roman Empire is a 'bad thing' because it means the end of education, literacy, decent buildings, economics and the rule of law. This is essentially what an Italian would tell you, but if you ask a German about it, they might see it a different way because they're coming from the other side. For them it is a 'good thing' in that the Roman Empire is seen as a decadent, effete, corrupt, slave-owning aristocracy against a manly proto-democracy of free peasants, so the barbarian legacy can be seen in different ways. They facilitate the transformation of the Roman Empire, and it's the empire that has the key legacies today. We are somehow citizens of the Roman Empire ourselves but you can see the barbarian contribution to that.

Barbarians Rising airs on History on Wednesdays at 10pm.

Interview by Tom Garner

5 surprising facts about…

THE FALL OF ROME

WESTERN EURASIA LATE-4TH – 6TH CENTURY

01 Vandals kick-started the empire's decline

The Siling and Hasding Vandals settled in Spain in 412. They united in 429, and in 439, they captured Carthage and the richest provinces of the entire Western Empire. The loss of these vital revenues made it impossible for the Roman Empire to maintain the size of its armed forces.

02 The emperor shed a tear

On 24 August 410, the Gothic army of Alaric sacked the old imperial city of Rome. On hearing that Rome was destroyed, the reigning Western Emperor Honorius I (395-423) burst into tears, saying: "But she was fine when I fed her this morning." He thought they meant his pet chicken Roma.

03 Attila cost the Romans thousands

In 442, Attila forced the empire to double the annual tribute paid to the Huns to 700 Roman pounds of gold. In 448, he trebled it to 2,100 pounds. Attila's campaigns played a vital role in transferring wealth away from the Roman centre, paving the way for imperial collapse.

04 An armada was destroyed

In 468, the Eastern Roman Emperor Leo I sent a huge armada of 1,113 ships to try to reconquer North Africa from the Vandals, which would have restored its richest provinces to the west. Vandal fire ships destroyed 600 Roman vessels, which cost 100,000 Roman pounds of gold, leading to the final disintegration of the west.

05 A barbarian became the new 'emperor'

In 511, Theodoric the Ostrogoth, ruler of Italy and Dalmatia, conquered Spain and southern Gaul. He also exercised hegemony over the Vandals and Burgundians. Having now put back together half of the old Roman west, his Roman subjects hailed him Theoderic Augustus.



AT A GLANCE

The Western Roman Empire is replaced by a series of successor states

Running from Scotland to Iraq, the Roman Empire was the largest and longest-lived state western Eurasia has ever known, controlling the bulk of its territories for half a millennium. In the 100 years after 376, a series of outside invasions unleashed a process of imperial disintegration, which culminated in the deposition of the last Western Roman emperor, Romulus Augustulus, in September 476.



Bring the first tank to life with TANK100

Wargaming launches a free AR/VR app to commemorate a century since the tank first entered battle in World War I

Wargaming, the creators of the massively multiplayer online game *World Of Tanks*, have released a new augmented and virtual-reality app to honour the first use of Britain's World War I secret weapon, the Mark I tank, which roared onto the battlefield on 15 September 1916, in the third month of the bloody Battle of the Somme.

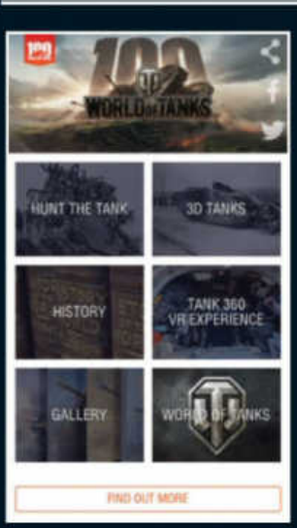
Available for free on iOS and Android devices, Tank 100 lets the user discover life-size AR Mark I tanks in towns and cities across the UK, view stunning 360-degree VR films of tanks in action, and uncover the fascinating history of armoured warfare and mechanical innovation in partnership with The Tank Museum, Bovington.

Tank 100 won't end with Somme centenary, and further updates promise to expand the range of tanks, mark future anniversaries, and even allow the user to take control of the tank themselves.

What are you waiting for? Use the QR code to download Tank 100 from the App Store.



100 YEARS OF TANKS — Tank 100 features



Tanks Now
Use AR to place a 3D tank on screen. Resize and orientate it to fit to create your own real-world Mark I cameo that you can save and share.

Tank Hunter
Discover 3D tanks dotted around the UK's towns and cities. Use AR to view the tank full size and unlock additional video content such as a 360 interior view that can be paired with Google Cardboard for a fully immersing experience.

AR Tank Trigger
An image or QR code can be used trigger a 3D tank on any surface.

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CLASH OF CROWNS

1066

When three kings rose to claim Edward the Confessor's crown, England's fate would be decided with steel and blood

Written by Frances White

Harold Godwinson's army was exhausted. Just weeks ago they had claimed victory against a Nordic invasion in a long, brutal battle at Stamford Bridge. They had marched approximately 400 kilometres with their weapons, gear and armour. It was during this march that Harold had received news of William of Normandy's landing on the shore of Pevensey. With a great deal of his men still in the north, Harold had no choice but to push onwards to meet the infamous Norman Bastard in combat. As Harold stood on the hill overlooking what is today the town of Battle, near Hastings, with his banners wafting in the morning breeze, he observed his army – they were wearied, sick, and many were still nursing wounds from Stamford. But there was nothing he could do, these were the men with whom England's fate rested, for William was coming for his crown whether he was ready or not.

Edward the Confessor (so-called for his piety) had reigned for 23 years, fairly long for an Anglo-Saxon monarch, but he had not borne any heirs. In fact, Edward had turned this to his advantage. With so many ambitious nobles jostling for position, he used the inheritance of his kingdom as a diplomatic tool, and one that, he was likely aware, he would not personally feel the repercussions of. However, this was all fated to come to a head: towards the end of 1065, Edward became severely ill and fell into a coma. He briefly regained consciousness long enough to place his widow and his kingdom under the protection of his brother-in-law, Harold Godwinson, before passing away.

There is much debate over what exactly Edward meant by 'protection', and whether he was actually bestowing Harold his kingdom or just employing him to help the next man who would rule it. However, these arguments are, on the whole, irrelevant. Although he was free to nominate a man of his choosing, it wasn't an Anglo-Saxon king's right to decide who would be his successor; that responsibility instead fell to the Witenaġemot, the king's council of advisers. The Witenaġemot had already begun to debate who would be the right man for the job before







The Battle Of Hastings by Frank Wilkin shows William being offered the crown of England from Harold's body

> "The combat in the marshland was brutal and ferocious, with both armies fighting frantically"

Edward's death. They decreed that he needed to be English, of good character and of royal blood – and luckily for Harold, he ticked all these boxes.

Despite a tumultuous family history, Harold had steadfastly and loyally served Edward for years, eventually becoming a trusted adviser. As Earl of Wessex, he was already one of the most powerful men in the country, and he had proved himself multiple times in battle. Edward had also married Harold's sister and his family had ties with Cnut the Great. Perhaps most importantly, Harold held esteem with the elite of English society – he was well liked and reliable. In fact, Harold's worthiness was so unanimously agreed by the Witenaġemot that no other names were even suggested. William and other contenders would later claim that Harold had stolen the throne, even that he had murdered Edward to do it, but Harold didn't 'grab' the kingdom, he was gifted it.

Harold seemed to be the perfect king: he was tall, eloquent and a skilled soldier, however, his reign would be one of the most turbulent and infamous in English history. Someone else had his gaze fixed on Edward's throne, and when Harold was crowned, William, duke of Normandy, was furious. William fervently believed England was his by birthright as he and Edward were distant cousins. He also claimed that some years earlier Edward had stated that he was his successor, and this message had been carried to him by none other than Harold Godwinson himself.

The legitimacy of this story is in some dispute, certainly Edward likely promised the kingdom to a host of nobles throughout his reign, but William did not seem to understand that England was not Edward's to give. No other action in Edward's reign indicates that he had chosen William to be his heir. The duke, however, was convinced that the kingdom was his, and set his sights on usurping the ambitious upstart, Harold Godwinson. He immediately made plans to invade England, building a fleet of around 700 ships to carry his army across the channel.

Initially William struggled to gain support for his invasion, but when he revealed that Harold had apparently sworn upon sacred relics that he would support William's claim, the church became involved. The finances and nobles provided by the church swelled William's pockets and his army. Harold, well aware of the fiery duke's intentions, assembled his army on the Isle of Wight. However, William did not come. Unfavourable winds halted the would-be conqueror's ships and, with his provisions running low, Harold disbanded his army and returned to London.

Harold probably knew that William would be coming sooner rather than later, however, he had another issue to deal with – sibling rivalry. On the same day as Harold's return to London, Harald Hardrada of Norway, also known as the last great Viking king, landed his fleet of longships on the mouth of the Tyne and joined up with Tostig Godwinson, Harold's younger brother.

Tostig had previously ruled the kingdom of Northumbria, an earldom stretching from the Humber to the Tweed, but his brutal and heavy-handed tendencies had caused him to grow increasingly unpopular with his subjects. In 1065, the thegns of York occupied the city, killed Tostig's officials and outlawed the man himself. The rebels were so furious with Tostig that they demanded Edward exile him, however, it wasn't the king who met with them, but his loyal advisor Harold. Using his strong influence, Harold had Tostig officially outlawed. But the fiery younger brother was not one to take things lying down, and at a meeting of the king and his council, he intervened and publicly accused Harold of conspiring against him. Harold, already aware of the dire state of England at the time, and the imminent threat of William, exiled his own brother.

It is likely that Harold took the action he did against his own kin to ensure peace and loyalty in the north – an impossibility with Tostig in charge. However, his brother resented him for it. As he fled England and took refuge in Flanders, Tostig let

THE INVASIONS OF 1066

1
8 September 1066
240-300 Viking long ships arrive at Tynemouth.

2
20 September 1066
The Norse invaders win at the Battle of Fulford; the city of York surrenders.

3
24 September 1066
Harold arrives in Tadcaster. His army has marched more than 320 kilometres from London.

4
25 September 1066
Harold destroys Harald and Tostig's forces at the battle of Stamford Bridge.

5
September 1066
25-30 Norwegian ships leave the coast.

6
28 September 1066
Approximately 700 Norman ships land in Pevensey.

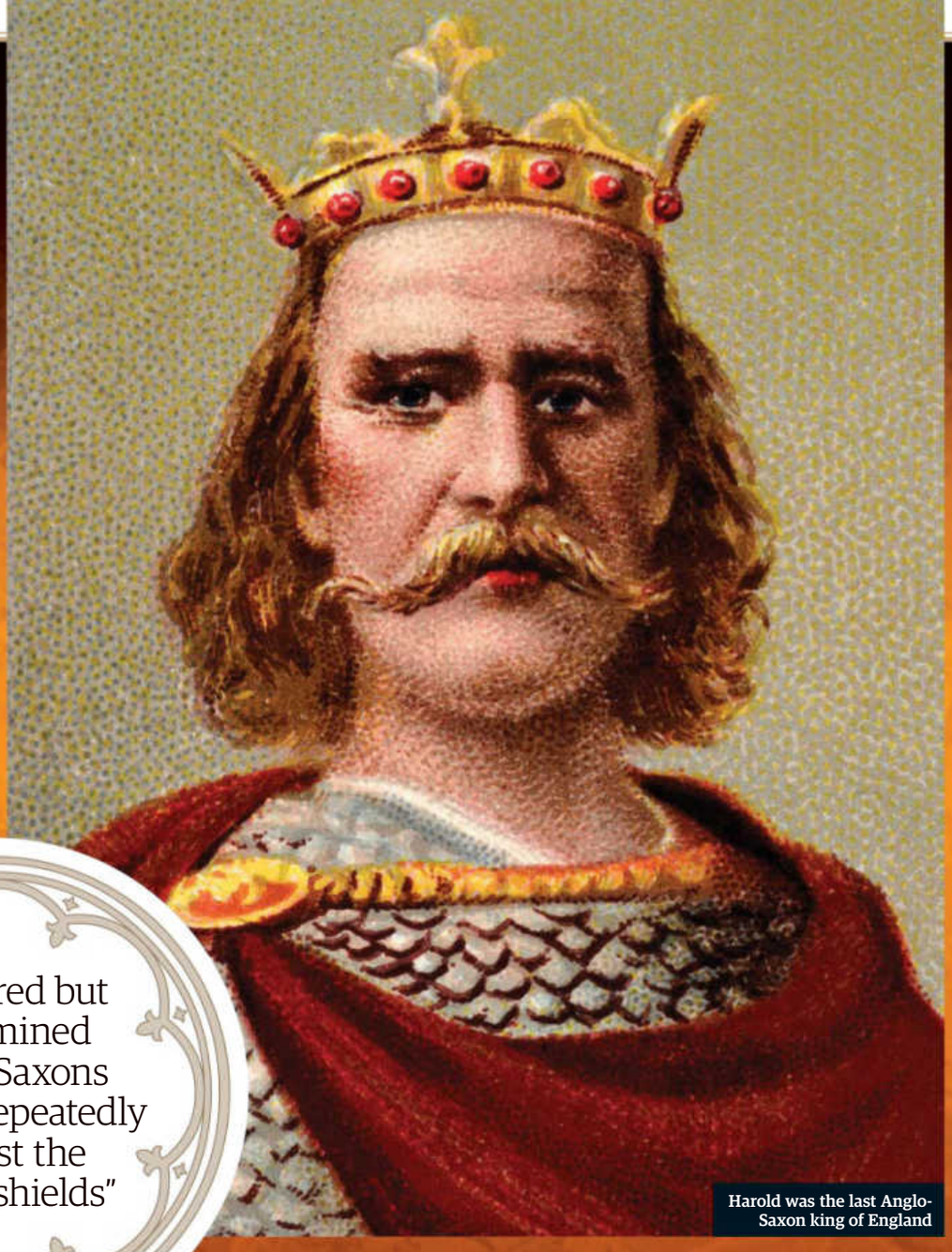
7
13 October 1066
Harold's force arrives at Hastings after a lightning quick march from Stamford Bridge.

8
14 October 1066
Armies approximately 5,000-7,000 men strong fight at the Battle of Hastings.

9
14 October 1066
King Harold is killed and the Normans are victorious.



King Harold Godwinson beholds the body of his rebellious brother Tostig, who lies beside Harald Hardrada



Harold was the last Anglo-Saxon king of England

fantasies of vengeance consume him and began to plot his return. Tostig knew he didn't have enough power alone to topple his older brother, so he set about making powerful alliances; he even sought an alliance with William before finally striking gold with King Harald III of Norway.

Hardrada's claim to the throne was even looser than William's. England had previously been ruled by the king of Denmark, Harthacnut, who made an agreement with Magnus, the king of Norway, that if one of them died without an heir, the other would inherit his throne. Harthacnut died childless, so Magnus took the crown of Denmark. However, Edward the Confessor was crowned king of England in his absence. Harald was Magnus's uncle and his co-king, so believed England belonged to him. The idea that his kingdom was being ruled by the son of one of Edward's advisers was outrageous for the Nordic king, and he set his sights on expanding his kingdom.

Whether Hardrada made an agreement with Tostig before setting sail or not is unknown, but either way Hardrada departed in August and met up with Tostig on 8 September. It was clear that Tostig needed Hardrada's help with the invasion, he had just a mere 12 ships to Hardrada's 240 minimum. Hardrada spent some time sacking and burning coastal villages, but he then set his sights on York, Tostig's old stomping ground. Hardrada had the men and Tostig knew the lay of the land better than anyone, so together they made an alarming foe to be reckoned with.

> "The tired but determined Anglo-Saxons clashed repeatedly against the Nordic shields"

The two men who would have to face this united force were Edwin and Morcar, the ealdormen of Mercia and Northumbria. They knew of Tostig and Hardrada's advances through their lands and had already gathered their forces, approximately 5,000 strong, to take down the invaders in what they expected to be a straightforward battle. The armies finally met at Fulford, on the outskirts of York.

The scene of the clash was wet and sodden marshland. The English positioned themselves with the River Ouse on their right flank and the swampy area on their left, a tactic that relied on both flanks holding their own against the invaders. Hardrada, meanwhile, had to think quickly – the English army had confronted him before he could assemble all his men, and many of them were hours away, so he had to be cunning with his deployment. He placed his less experienced troops to the right and kept his best troops with him on the riverbank. The English had caught wind of Harald's delays and so struck quickly. They charged forward against the Norwegian line and, immediately overwhelmed, the Nordics were pushed all the way back to the marshlands.

Hardrada then saw his chance. As the English advanced, he sent the bulk of his troops to sweep around them in a pincer movement, trapping them against the ditch and separating them from the other English flank. As more Norwegians arrived, they opened up a third front against the Anglo-Saxons. The combat in the marshland was brutal and ferocious, with both armies fighting frantically through the thick, sludgy mud. However, the English were now outnumbered by the Norse men, many of them were unable to escape the ditch and those that managed to climb out fled for their lives. Eventually there were so many English bodies strewn across the ground that the invaders could advance without getting their feet wet.

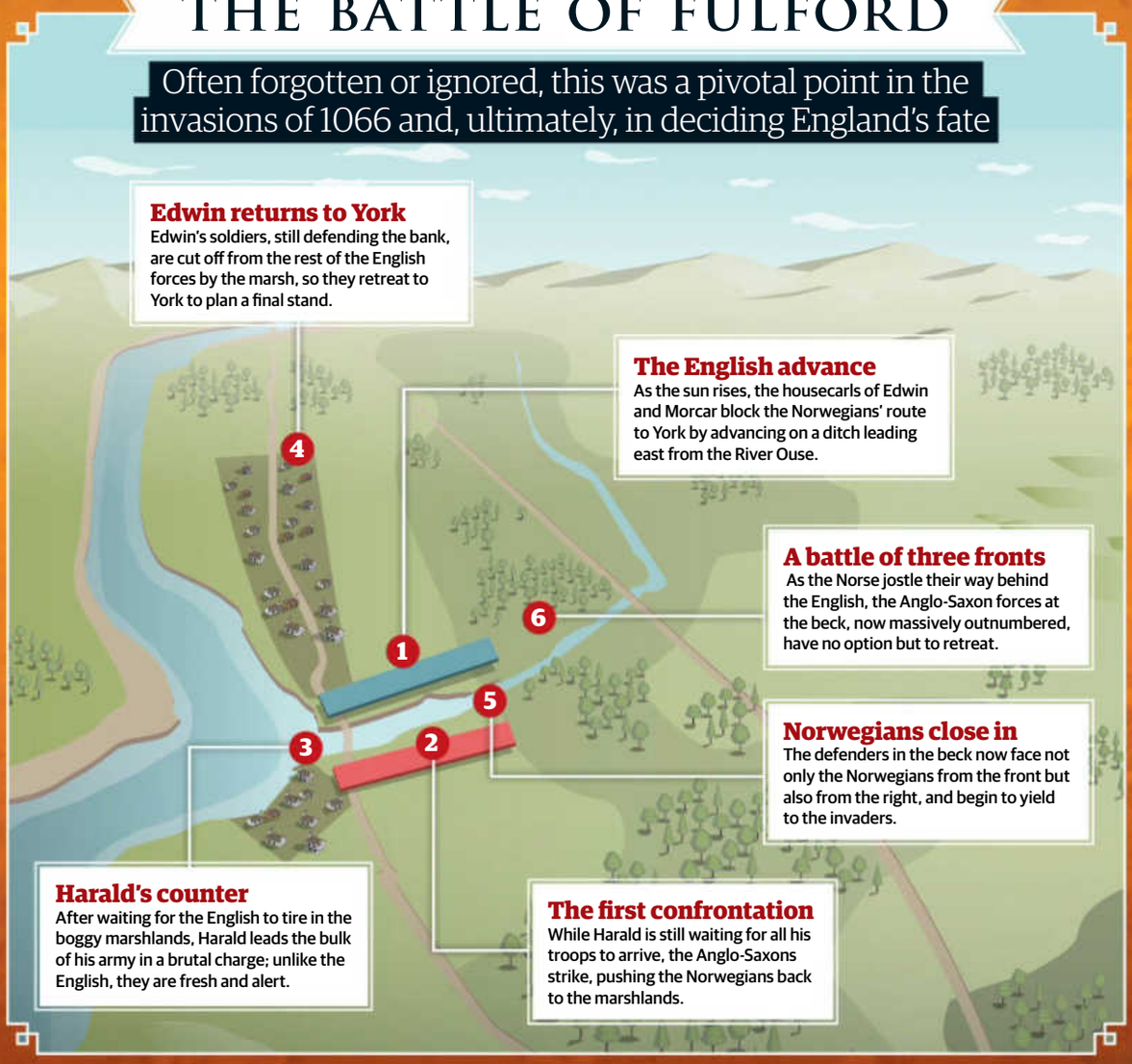
With such a definite defeat, York was promptly surrendered to Hardrada and Tostig with the promise that they would not force entry. This was accepted, perhaps because the duo did not wish to subject their new capital to looting and pillaging. Instead they arranged that various hostages would be handed over at Stamford Bridge, some 11 kilometres away, which is where the two men chose to retire. The battle at Fulford would not only be Hardrada's last victory, but it would be the last time a largely Scandinavian army would defeat the English.

Little did the victorious invaders know, Harold and his men had been marching day and night from London. Despite the imminent threat of an invasion by William, Harold was so determined to repel the invaders that he and his army achieved the astounding feat of travelling almost 300 kilometres in just four days. Tostig and Hardrada were likely expecting Harold's eventual rebuttal but neither of them had any comprehension of the monumental journey that the king and his army had embarked on, and neither of them suspected a thing as they headed to Stamford Bridge to collect their additional hostages.

Spirits were high for the invaders' men; many of them had even left their armour behind on

THE BATTLE OF FULFORD

Often forgotten or ignored, this was a pivotal point in the invasions of 1066 and, ultimately, in deciding England's fate



NORWEGIANS

- **COMMANDERS:** HARALD HARDRADA, TOSTIG GODWINSON
- **TROOPS:** APPROX 10,000, OF WHICH 6,000 WERE DEPLOYED
- **KEY UNIT:** EXPERIENCED WARRIORS POSITIONED ON THE FIRM GROUND NEAR THE RIVERBANK
- **STRENGTHS:** STRONG STARTING POSITION, WHICH GAVE HARALD THE HIGHER GROUND, AND SHEER FORCE OF NUMBERS
- **WEAKNESSES:** NONE
- **CASUALTIES AND LOSSES:** APPROXIMATELY 750

VS

SAXONS

- **COMMANDERS:** MORCAR OF NORTHUMBRIA, EDWIN OF MERCIA
- **TROOPS:** APPROX 5,000
- **KEY UNIT:** SHIELDMEN
- **STRENGTHS:** AN EARLY ATTACK BEFORE THE FULL VIKING FORCE ARRIVED
- **WEAKNESSES:** DISADVANTAGED STARTING POSITION, BOGGY LAND SLOWED ATTACKS
- **CASUALTIES AND LOSSES:** UP TO 1,000

their ships, and some were simply relaxing in the meadows or out hunting when they spied Harold's men. From the south streamed a horde of Anglo-Saxons fully armed and ready for battle. There is no doubt that the English would have been exhausted, but the Nordics were completely and utterly unprepared. According to one account, a brave man rode up to Hardrada and Tostig before the battle began, offering the rebellious brother his earldom if he would turn on the Nordic king. Tostig then asked the rider what Hardrada would get, to which the rider replied, "Six feet of ground... or as much more as he needs, as he is taller than most men." Impressed by the rider, Hardrada asked Tostig for his name; Tostig revealed that it was none other than Harold himself.

Whether this account is true or not, neither party was in the mood for deals or truces, this was to be decided once and for all the old fashioned way. Once the scrambled Nordic forces gathered together, they deployed in a defensive position. The English cut through the invaders on the west side of the River Derwent with ease, however, the bridge itself presented them with problems. They would have to pass through the vulnerable chokehold to continue their advance, and according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, one man stood in their way. A huge Norse axe-man guarded the narrow crossing of the bridge alone, holding back the entire English army. He brutally cut down anyone who approached, until eventually he was defeated by an English soldier who floated downstream in a barrel and thrust his spear up through the bridge.

This delay gave the Nordics time to assemble a triangular shield wall, and this was where the real battle began. The tired but determined Anglo-Saxons clashed repeatedly against the Nordic shields, hammering them over and over again. The fighting lasted for hours, with the advantage changing hands many times throughout. However, the Nordics' lack of armour cost them dearly and the ranks began to fall.



THE BATTLE OF STAMFORD BRIDGE

Harold's men finally met the invaders at Stamford Bridge in a battle that would make and break the English king



Surprise attack

After agreements were made to hand over hostages to Hardrada at Stamford Bridge, Harold's troops take the Norwegians totally by surprise by streaming in from the south.

The shield wall goes up

Rushing to put on their fighting gear, the invaders hastily put up a defensive shield wall on the west side of the bridge.

The shield wall breaks

Overwhelmed by the sheer number of English, the Norwegian shield wall is broken; survivors flee across the bridge.

The Anglo-Saxon wave

The Norwegians have time to put up a shield wall but as the English pour across the bridge, brutal fighting wages. Ultimately, the shield wall falls and Tostig and Hardrada join the fallen.



The chokehold

According to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, a lone axe-man stays behind to block the narrow crossing of the bridge, killing 40 Englishmen until he is finally wounded.

Delayed reinforcements

Norwegian reinforcements, led by Orre, arrive. They briefly cause considerable damage to the English flank, but the Anglo-Saxons regroup and defeat them. Survivors drown in the rivers as they rush to escape.



NORWEGIANS	VS	SAXONS
• COMMANDERS: HARALD HARDRADA, TOSTIG GODWINSON		• COMMANDER: HAROLD GODWINSON
• TROOPS: APPROX 9,000, 3,000 OF WHICH ARRIVED LATE		• TROOPS: APPROX 15,000, SIGNIFICANTLY MORE THAN THE NORWEGIAN FORCE
• KEY UNIT: AXE-MEN		• KEY UNIT: THE PROFESSIONAL HOUSECARLS
• STRENGTHS: AN ALMOST IMPENETRABLE SHIELD WALL		• STRENGTHS: THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE
• WEAKNESSES: UNPREPARED, MANY MEN WERE WITHOUT ARMOUR		• WEAKNESSES: FORCED TO CROSS THE NARROW CHOKE-POINT OF THE BRIDGE
• CASUALTIES AND LOSSES: APPROX 6,000		• CASUALTIES AND LOSSES: APPROX 5,000

Hardrada – the giant of a man and the last Viking king – was slain by an arrow to his windpipe and Tostig too met his end in the land he had fought for his entire adult life. Even reinforcements led by Eystein Orre, who had rushed all the way from Riccall, were not enough to quash the Anglo-Saxon army. This force, known as Orre's storm, was so fatigued that it is said many collapsed and died of exhaustion as they reached the field. Although they were able to briefly hold back the defenders, they too fell victim to Harold's determination, and then they fled for their lives.

For Harold, Stamford Bridge was an epic victory and cemented his position as a strong and reliable English king. However, it would also forever be intrinsically linked to his downfall. Just three



The name 'Hardrada' was actually a nickname Harald earned meaning 'Hard Ruler'

"Sensing a lull in morale, the duke pushed back his helmet and rode among his men"

days after Harold's success, another would-be king landed on his shores. William had finally arrived.

Harold feared William for good reason, the Duke of Normandy had a fearsome reputation, and this was not all bravado. William had been born to his father's mistress, and his illegitimate status had plagued him throughout his life. Commonly referred to as 'The Bastard' by his enemies, William was a man who, from the age of seven or eight, had faced constant criticism and challenge because of who he was. Throughout his life he had to fight for everything he had. William had grown up in a land gripped by war and chaos, he had been jostled between ambitious nobles who wished to use him for power, and from his earliest years of rule he had to squash constant rebellions. In spite of this, through sheer determination and a clever marriage to Matilda of Flanders, William 'The Bastard' had managed to consolidate power in Normandy against all odds.

This whole experience had made the duke hard, tough and fiercely determined to succeed – there wasn't much in life that could hold William back, and Harold claiming the throne that was rightfully his was not something he could just stand by and accept. The two men were no strangers – William had saved Harold when he was held hostage and the two men proceeded to fight side by side. Harold was even recorded as having rescued two of William's soldiers from quicksand. Together the two defeated William's enemy, Conan II, and William thanked Harold for his services with a knighthood. If William's claim was true, and Harold did swear an oath to the duke, then it is easy to understand why this hot-blooded warrior was furious at Harold's betrayal. Once a friend, he was now an enemy, and William knew only one way to deal with enemies: war was in his blood, he was moulded by it.



A silver penny showing a contemporary, if rather faded, depiction of Harold Godwinson

William's timing was disastrous for Harold but hugely beneficial to himself. The duke had enough time to build a wooden castle at Hastings, raid the surrounding area and thoroughly prepare his force for the oncoming storm. Harold, meanwhile, was anything but prepared. The English king had left a great number of his forces in the north, and the men he did bring had to march south from London in approximately a week. By the time they reached Senlac Hill, near Hastings, they were absolutely exhausted.

Harold knew his surprise tactics would not work here, so he set up his army in a defensive position atop the hill. Each of his flanks was protected by marshy land that would make an enemy advance difficult. He positioned his strongest fighters, the housecarls, at the front of his shield wall. At 9am, the trumpets rang out and the Normans moved. The archers attacked first, sending arrows raining over the English men. However, Harold's position on the hill, and his soldiers' sturdy shields, prevented much damage.

William decided that if the archers couldn't do it then he would have to act quickly. He sent his army forward in three groups, with himself riding through the middle, the papal banner billowing above his head. The attackers rode hard, but they were still unable to break the Anglo-Saxon shield wall, and they retreated once more. Harold's men, excited by what seemed like another victory, gave chase to the fleeing Normans. It was at this point that a rumour began to circulate that William had been killed. Sensing a lull in morale, the duke pushed back his helmet and rode among his men, commanding them to attack the English who had broken away from the hill. With a revitalised Norman force, the English were overwhelmed, and few who descended the hill survived.

At around midday, there was a lull in the battle, with both sides resting and replenishing their strength, it was then that William decided

to change tactics. Witnessing the victory of the previous English pursuit, he decided to draw them out again. When the battle resumed, the Norman cavalry thundered forward into the shield wall. The fighting was brutal and desperate, with Harold's own brothers cut down in the melee, but still the shield wall held. As ordered, the Normans retreated and once more Harold's men pursued them down the hill. All at once William's soldiers turned and attacked the English.

The battle waged on until 4pm, and with the English numbers now depleted, the shield wall grew shorter and weaker. William saw his opportunity and sent his whole army up the hill, while the archers continued to fire their arrows, and this time it worked. The shield wall finally broke and the Normans wreaked havoc, cutting down Harold's remaining housecarls and, at some point, the cursed king himself.

It is of some debate if Harold died as a result of an arrow to the eye or was felled with a sword, as the famous *Bayeux Tapestry* depicts both. What we do know is that his death had a tremendous effect on his men. Leaderless, the Anglo-Saxons began to flee the field into the woods behind. However, Harold's loyal soldiers of the royal household remained by his body and fought until the end.

Hastings was not an easy won battle, William too lost a great number of his men, and bodies were still found on the hillside years later. When Harold's mother requested that William return her son's body to him, he refused, stating that Harold should be buried on the shore of the land he sought to guard. Still rumours persisted that Harold had not died at all, but instead had gone into hiding, to one day return and reclaim his land. The people's love for Harold was still strong, and although William may have won the battle, the war to truly become the ruler of England and its people was one that would wage for years to come.



This rather anachronistic 13th-century manuscript shows Harold being killed by William at Hastings

WHAT IF?

With the clash of three kings, England faced three fates

JANUARY 1066
William prepares for invasion
Believing himself the rightful heir, William gathers an army of noblemen and a fleet of 700 vessels.

SEPTEMBER 1066
Harald Hardrada's forces invade
Also believing the crown to be rightfully his, Norse king Harald Hardrada invades England, sailing up the Ouse to land in Yorkshire.

20 SEPTEMBER 1066
The Anglo-Saxons are defeated at Fulford
Harald is confronted by Harold's earls and they do battle at Fulford. The Saxons are outnumbered and the Norwegians claim York.

20 SEPTEMBER 1066
The Saxon earls triumph at Fulford
Harald Hardrada and Tostig are defeated at Fulford by the northern earls, Edwin and Morcar.

25 SEPTEMBER 1066
Anglo-Saxons triumph at Stamford Bridge
After marching his men North, Harold faces the invaders and defeats them at Stamford Bridge, killing Harald Hardrada.

28 SEPTEMBER 1066
Godwinson's troops march south
Aware that William's ships are incoming, Godwinson marches his army south from London to meet them.

14 OCTOBER 1066
Harold Godwinson defeated at Hastings
After William's fleet crosses the Channel, Harold faces them at the Battle of Hastings. But the English are tired and ultimately lose to the invaders.

29 SEPTEMBER 1066
Saxons defeat the Normans
With a well-rested army, Harold is able to fight off William and the Norman invaders at Hastings; Harold is celebrated as a hero.

25 DECEMBER 1066
William crowned king
William initially faces opposition but after capturing London he is finally crowned king. Rebellions would continue to rock the country for years after.

25 SEPTEMBER 1066
Nordic triumph at Stamford Bridge
Despite being ambushed by the Saxons, the Nordic forces triumph over Harold's men, then Harold himself is killed.

14 OCTOBER 1066
Nordics defeat Normans
Hardrada's forces are amply prepared to face William's, and after a brutal battle, the Norman would-be conqueror is defeated by the Norwegians.

KEY
- REAL TIMELINE
- KING HARDRADA TIMELINE
- KING GODWINSON TIMELINE

THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

The pivotal clash that would forever alter the destiny of Medieval England and cement 1066 as one of the most important dates in English history



Harold sets up his base
Harold's army establishes a position on Senlac hill, then sets up a fence of sharpened stakes along a ditch. The king orders his men to remain in this position no matter what.

Right on target
William's archers fire before and after the assaults and Harold is hit and killed, most commonly believed to be by an arrow to the eye. Leaderless, the English forces flee.

The Normans retreat
William's men are met by a barrage of spears and axes, and are forced to retreat. A rumour quickly spreads that William has been killed.

The Saxons move
English forces break away from their position and pursue the invaders. William's presence on the field spurs a counterattack and the English are overwhelmed.

The battle begins
William orders his archers to fire into the Saxon shield wall, when this fails his spearmen and cavalry lead an assault.

A tactic emerges
William sends his cavalry to the shield wall then draws the Saxons into more pursuits by feigning flights. Still the shield wall does not break.

NORMANS VS SAXONS

NORMANS

- **COMMANDER:** WILLIAM OF NORMANDY
- **TROOPS:** UNKNOWN, APPROX 7,000-12,000
- **KEY UNIT:** NORMAN CAVALRY
- **STRENGTHS:** AN EXPERIENCED LEADER AND RESTED TROOPS
- **WEAKNESSES:** WEAK STARTING POSITION: THE ENGLISH WERE POSITIONED ON THE TOP OF THE HILL WITH THEIR FLANKS PROTECTED
- **CASUALTIES AND LOSSES:** UNKNOWN BUT THE FIGURES WERE HEAVY. HOWEVER, NOT AS HIGH AS THE SAXON LOSSES

SAXONS

- **COMMANDER:** HAROLD GODWINSON
- **TROOPS:** UNKNOWN, APPROX 5,000-13,000
- **KEY UNIT:** THE KING'S BODYGUARDS, OR 'HOUSECARLS'
- **STRENGTHS:** THE TREMENDOUSLY DEADLY BATTLE-AXES
- **WEAKNESSES:** SIGNIFICANT LOSSES RECENTLY ENDURED AT THE BATTLE OF STAMFORD BRIDGE, LACK OF CAVALRY
- **CASUALTIES AND LOSSES:** APPROX 50 PER CENT OF THE FORCE

10 OCTOBER 1066
Normandy falls into disarray
Left leaderless, with a king in his infancy, Normandy descends into civil strife that will continue for two decades.

1068
A kingdom at peace
Through careful negotiation, Harold is able to contain the raids by the Celts and strike a deal with Wales and Scotland, leaving the island divided, but at peace.

1072
England grows strong
Harold exploits France, claiming many strategic ports without issue. He also forms strong bonds with Scandinavia, making him a powerful figure on the globe.

1200s
The Northern Empire expands
With its strong trade routes, the Northern Empire of Europe steadily expands. This trade network spans all the way from the Americas to the eastern Mediterranean.

1300s
Southern Europe falls
After many wars between the countries of southern Europe, the Northern Empire fully dominates Europe, with Scandinavian culture engulfing the Latin influences.

1069-70
William strikes back
In response to the Northern rebels, William carries out a series of bloody campaigns known as the Harrying of the North.

1080s
The Tower of London is built
In an effort to secure control over England, William orders the construction of many castles, the most famous being the White Tower of the Tower of London.

1085
The *Domesday Book* is created
To further secure the land holdings of himself and his vassals, William orders the creation of the *Domesday Book*.

9 SEPTEMBER 1087
Death of William
While on a military campaign, William falls ill and dies. His death begins a war between his two sons for control of his kingdoms of England and Normandy.

1135-54
Civil war reigns supreme
After the death of William's fourth son, Henry I, a succession crisis sparks a brutal civil war known as the anarchy.

21 NOVEMBER 1066
Hardrada is crowned
In a country that has previously been ruled by Scandinavian kings, Hardrada is able to persuade any would-be rebels to accept his rule.

1080s
England gets Norse
Nordic influences take hold of England: the language becomes heavily Nordic, and the battle-axe becomes the primary weapon of choice.

1110
Norway grows strong
With Norway growing stronger, it faces its enemy France in a bloody war that wages for years. Finally the Nordic forces claim victory and the spoils are divided.

1200
The Nordic Empire expands
The Nordic Empire becomes one of the most formidable in Europe; this powerful axis crushes the influence of the Catholic Church and its associated nations.

1390
America is found
Due to the strong British/Norse partnership, the Nordics land in America, claiming the land long before their Spanish rivals. The country is quickly developed.

Time Traveller's Handbook

PRINCE GEORGE'S COURT

England, 1801

In the early years of the 19th century, London is a city of two halves: of grinding poverty and glittering prosperity. King George III's mental health is in a perilous state and Pitt the Younger has just left Downing Street after 18 years as prime minister. The United Kingdom is in its infancy, the nation is engaged in the War of the Second Coalition and a chap named Nelson is making a splash thanks to his naval exploits. It is 25 years since the American colonies declared their independence, and on the continent, the near decade-long French Revolutionary Wars are draining Britain's coffers and its morale. At home, the people are hungry and restless, yet for George, the prince of Wales, and those surrounding him, life is full of glamour, gambling and amusement.

Did you know?

The prince of Wales's extravagant lifestyle will eventually turn the public against him

FIG.01



WHERE TO STAY

For travellers who need to be at the centre of the action, the only place to stay is Grenier's Hotel on Jermyn Street. You'll find yourself at the heart of fashionable London, and hotel guests can expect to rub shoulders with some rather illustrious visitors from all over Europe.

Depending on your political affiliation, any gentleman who is lucky enough to know a member of White's or Brook's shouldn't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend an evening with the cream of London society. Unfortunately, ladies aren't admitted just yet.

Dos & don'ts

✓ **Flash the cash.** The members of the Carlton House Set like to spend money, even more so if it's from someone else's pocket, so don't be shy about splashing out.

✓ **Look like Beau Brummell.** You've got to look the part, and that means fine tailoring for the gents and empire line gowns for ladies.

✓ **Admire the architecture.** The prince of Wales personally oversaw the remodelling of Carlton House, so be sure to tell him that his London abode is breathtaking.

✓ **Talk politics.** The Carlton House Set thrives on politics; nail your Whig colours to the mast and join the debate.

✗ **Mention Caroline of Brunswick.** George's estranged wife is still a thorn in his side so, whatever you do, don't bring up the princess's name.

✗ **Be a radical.** With the prince's scandalous antics ruffling British feathers, many fear a repeat of the French Revolution on this side of the Channel.

✗ **Diet.** Sumptuous feasts are an everyday occurrence for the Carlton House Set; you might need to loosen your corset if you're going to join in.

✗ **Talk about Maria Fitzherbert.** The prince of Wales secretly married Maria, a Catholic, in 1785; if the secret gets out, it could cost him the throne.

WHO TO BEFRIEND

George 'Beau' Brummell

If you want every door in London to open at your knock, you need to get your feet under the prince of Wales's table through his close friend Beau Brummell. He can be capricious, moody and spoiled, but he's also the most fashionable man in the city – who he doesn't know really isn't worth knowing. With Brummell's name in your address book, you'll enjoy supper with the duchess of Devonshire, banter with playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan and enjoy the best seats in the house when Mrs Siddons – the most acclaimed actress of the day – performs at Drury Lane.

Extra tip:
Make sure you're decked out in clothes that will make Beau take notice, brush up on the rules of Georgian gambling, fill your purse with coin and get ready to live life at a breakneck speed.



FIG.02

WHO TO AVOID

Frances Villiers, countess of Jersey

While she might look beautiful, Frances Villiers's heart is nowhere near as pleasant as her face. As the prince's mistress for eight years and counting, Lady Jersey has seen off the competition and even helped to get rid of Caroline of Brunswick, her lover's estranged wife. Lady Villiers has a reputation as a gossip, schemer and troublemaker with connections in very high places. Her husband is in the service of the prince of Wales and Lady Villiers is a firm favourite of Queen Charlotte, so she's got a direct line to King George III.



FIG.03

Helpful Skills

Prospective members of the fashionable Carlton House Set will need some specialist skills if they want to fit in

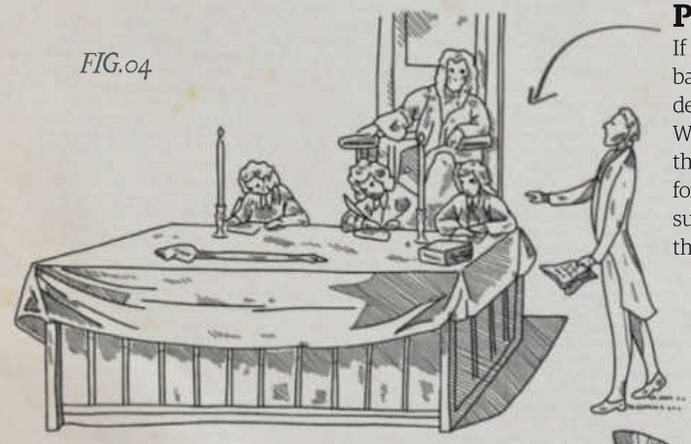


FIG.04

Politics

If politics isn't your bag, it's time to develop an interest. With the Whigs and the Tories battling for supremacy, make sure to get behind the Whigs.



FIG.06



FIG.05

Gambling

Georgians will bet on anything, and the prince of Wales is never happier than when placing a wager. If you know how to gamble, it's odds on he'll notice.

Dancing

The dance floor is where Georgians flirt, gossip and talk politics. Make sure you know your contradance from your cotillon before you step out at Almack's.





THE CIA VERSUS













INSIDE OPERATION CONDOR: THE DEADLY US-BACKED PROGRAMME TO PURGE SOUTH AMERICA OF THE RED MENACE

COMMUNISM

WRITTEN BY BEN BIGGS

In the 1970s and 1980s, most of South America was a dangerous place to be for those that leaned towards the left of the political spectrum. Anyone who was regarded as an intellectual, or acted as a union leader – in fact, anyone in a position to rally people to their side and challenge the political parties of certain states was a target. With much of the power on the continent held by military dictators, dissidents were suppressed with the threat of torture and death. These regimes shared common political opponents, so, in 1974, the heads of the intelligence agencies of Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia met with the leader of Chile's secret police, Manuel Contreras, to draw up a plan: Operation Condor.

Named after the world's largest carrion bird, Condor was officially a mandate that allowed each country to target political exiles and armed groups across their borders, but it ultimately extended to families and friends of dissidents, political activists, teachers and more. Thousands were kidnapped, tortured and murdered – and behind the scenes was the US Central Intelligence Agency, providing financial, covert and even military support for the regimes of Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet and his allies. The CIA's goal was to subvert communism in South America at all costs and gain leverage for US business interests where it could, even if that meant the tacit support of military juntas, and the oppression and murder of innocent people.









Orlando Letelier – Chilean ambassador to the United States, member of the Chilean Socialist Party and concentration camp survivor – was Augusto Pinochet's most powerful and outspoken critic. This made him a prime target, and on 21 September 1976, Chile's secret police – the Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional (DINA) – was emboldened by a covert agreement with high-level US intelligence officials to operate beyond its borders. As Letelier drove through the embassy district in Washington, DC, a plastic bomb hidden underneath his car exploded. The force of the blast went up into the driver's seat, killing Letelier and his US co-worker Ronni Karpen Moffitt, while Moffitt's husband, in the back seat, was injured.

This was neither the first nor the last politically motivated assassination by General Pinochet's regime, but it was the first of its kind on US soil. The hit had been ordered by Pinochet and the perpetrator was professional assassin Michael Townley, a US expatriate working for DINA who led a team of anti-Castro Cuban exiles. There are strong indications that the CIA, though it had no direct involvement in the bombing, knew about the assassination order many weeks in advance. Yet the agency did nothing to try to stop it.

This period in history, known as the Cold War, is characterised by the nuclear arms race between the Soviet Union and the United States, portentous political speeches and tense stand-offs in the streets of Berlin or the waters around Cuba, but like an iceberg, the Cold War had a lot more going on beneath the surface. The CIA took an active role in preserving democracy and stamping out the biggest political bogeyman of the day, communism, but if the former had to be sacrificed in the name of the latter... so be it.

In fact, the USA has a long history of helping to shape the political fates of other countries even before the CIA played its part in the tacit support of Pinochet's regime. In 1946, the School of the Americas was established in the US-run Panama Canal Zone as the Latin American Training Centre – Ground Division, ostensibly to school local brass in the US methods of waging war. In the aftermath of the 1953-9 Cuban Revolution, the school's remit changed dramatically and military figures from across Latin America – some of them future dictators – would go to learn the brutal counter-insurgency techniques that could help the US hold back the Red Tide they saw around every corner.

At around the same time that voices were raised in protest on the streets of Cuba's capital Havana, Guatemala was enjoying the fruits of freedom, having shrugged off dictator Jorge Ubico and the shackles that US business the United Fruit Company imposed on the people in 1946. The new Guatemalan government redistributed land to farmers, gave power to unions and created literacy programmes. President Juan Arévalo's politics were capitalist, but the move away from the political right both alarmed the US and put a huge dent in a business that had profited enormously from slavish labour practices. The CIA recruited dozens of opponents to Arévalo, denounced Guatemala



Haitian dictator Papa Doc Duvalier handed the 'president for life' title to his son when he died in 1971



From the safety of his ranch, former head of the Chilean secret police defies the court decision to hand him a seven-year sentence for Letelier's assassination



Chileans stage a peaceful protest in Santiago calling for justice for Orlando Letelier

"THE USA HAS A LONG HISTORY OF HELPING TO SHAPE THE POLITICAL FATES OF OTHER COUNTRIES"

and spread propaganda that the country had been infiltrated by communists. Then in 1954, a CIA-backed invasion by exiled Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas overthrew the government and took power. This was a turning point for the White House: despite international criticism, the powerbrowkers in the Capitol were starting to see how the CIA could be used to subvert other nations where diplomatic sweet-talking, aid and rebukes failed. Someone else had made the same observation: Argentinian Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, who escaped from Guatemala City and went on to join the Cuban Revolution as Fidel Castro's right-hand man, travelling to Latin America and Africa as a freewheeling agent of insurrection.

In the two decades leading to the 1974 meeting in Chile, military juntas spread like a virus across the Caribbean and the Cone of South America. In the same year as the Armas coup, General Alfredo Stroessner seized power in Paraguay, then either ensured he was the only candidate in 30 years of elections, or rigged them. Brazilian president João Goulart was overthrown by General Olympio Mourão Filho in 1964, and in 1971, anti-communist General Hugo Banzer wore his political nemesis – President Juan José Torres – down with a series of coups that won him the dictatorship of Bolivia. In Uruguay, President Juan María Bordaberry orchestrated a civic-military coup in June 1973 and Pinochet took control of Chile three months later.

This apparent domino effect was no coincidence. If the Central Intelligence Agency wasn't wielding the might of the US budget to directly fund the juntas – supplying them with arms, spreading propaganda or feeding them vital intelligence – then it was keeping a covert eye on the situation as it unfolded and intervening only if it looked like the Reds were in danger of getting the upper hand.

This was certainly the case in Haiti in 1958, where the self-appointed 'president for life' François 'Papa Doc' Duvalier quelled an uprising with CIA support. Despite reservations about its dictatorial ruler who increasingly styled himself after the Vodou spirit – or loa – of death, Baron Samedi, the proximity of the island to Cuba and Papa Doc's anti-Castro sentiment meant the US would condone the awful status quo in Haiti as long as it remained a frontline buffer against communism. Duvalier and his successor went on to murder tens of thousands and plunged a once-prosperous country into poverty.

Agent Daniel Mitrione had been operating in Brazil for much of the time between 1960 and 1967, where President João Goulart was doing his best to make sweeping social economic reforms to spread wealth and promote education. As a man with considerable private finances, President Goulart was anti-communist but leaned to the political left. Too far to the left for the liking of US foreign policy adviser Henry Kissinger, who sent teams of psychological warfare agents (Psy-ops) to spread malicious rumours and misinformation about Goulart, softening Brazil up in preparation for a military coup.

While the propaganda took hold, the CIA began communicating with senior executive Jack Burford of the Hanna Mining Company, which had stakes in Brazil's mineral companies. Burford travelled to Brazil for a secret meeting with Goulart – one that would line the Brazilian president's pockets and profit both the US and Hanna Mining – but Goulart rejected the deal. Thus, President Lyndon Johnson green-lit the coup to overthrow João Goulart and he was exiled by Brazil's generals under the shadow of a nearby US Navy taskforce.

Mitrione stayed behind to help remove remaining Goulart supporters and assist Brazilian police in the interrogation techniques in which he excelled. He was then sent to Uruguay in 1969, where he honed his skills allegedly torturing beggars that he snatched off the streets, deploying his methods even against pregnant women with the clinical efficiency of a surgeon. Manuel Hevia Cosculluela, a Cuban double agent, worked for the CIA under Mitrione's supervision, often observing him. Cosculluela later wrote about his experiences when he returned to Cuba: "There was no interrogation, only a demonstration of the effects of different voltages on the different parts of the human body, as well as demonstrating the use of a drug, which induces vomiting – I don't know why or what for – and another chemical substance. The four of them died."

Cosculluela also described some of the twisted torture theory that Mitrione discussed with him. First came the 'softening up' phase of beating and insults, no questions asked, followed by relentless beatings. Then the interrogation began. "The precise pain, in the precise place, in the precise amount, for the desired effect," was Mitrione's method. "You must always leave him some hope, a distant light... it may be good to prolong the session a little to apply another softening-up," he continued. "Not to extract information now, but only as a political measure, to create a healthy fear of meddling in subversive activities."

The people of Argentina arguably suffered more than any other South American country as a result of Operation Condor, with its death toll peaking at three times Chile's estimated 10,000 murder victims. Even before the Argentinian dictator Jorge Videla took over in 1976 with the support of the CIA and the blessing of US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Videla was waging what was known as the 'Dirty War' against the Argentinian people as a senior military officer. The targets of his death squads included Marxists, left-wing activists and supporters of Argentina's previous – democratically elected – president.

His junta perpetrated a cultural genocide against students, priests, union members, artists and academics, inside concentration camps where

"THE US LEADERSHIP AT THE TIME WAS ABLE TO SHOW HOW IT WAS WINNING THE WAR AGAINST THE REDS"



The US invades Panama during Operation Just Cause, to oust Manuel Noriega – his usefulness had come to an end



Pictured here in September 1973, General Pinochet was finally stripped of political immunity in 2004, although he died before he could be convicted



On the streets of Argentina, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo still protest about their 'disappeared' children



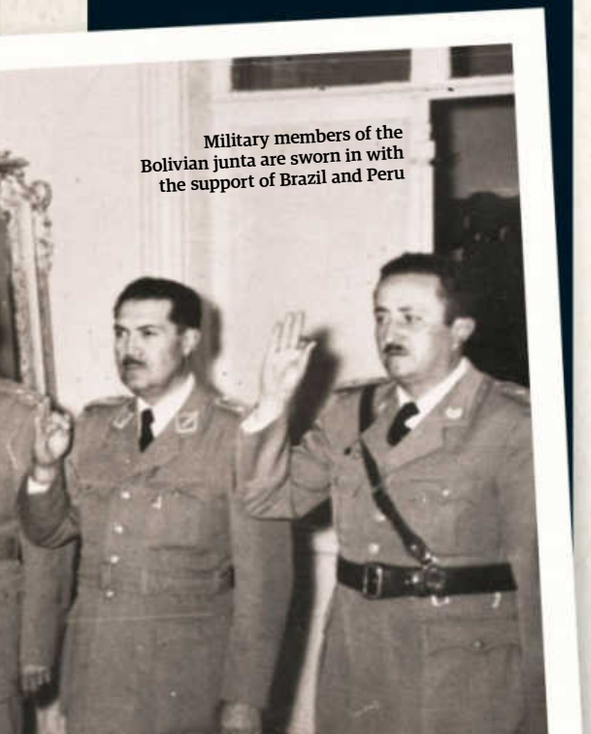
SCHOOL OF THE DICTATORS

INSIDE THE CIA TRAINING CAMP FOR LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICERS

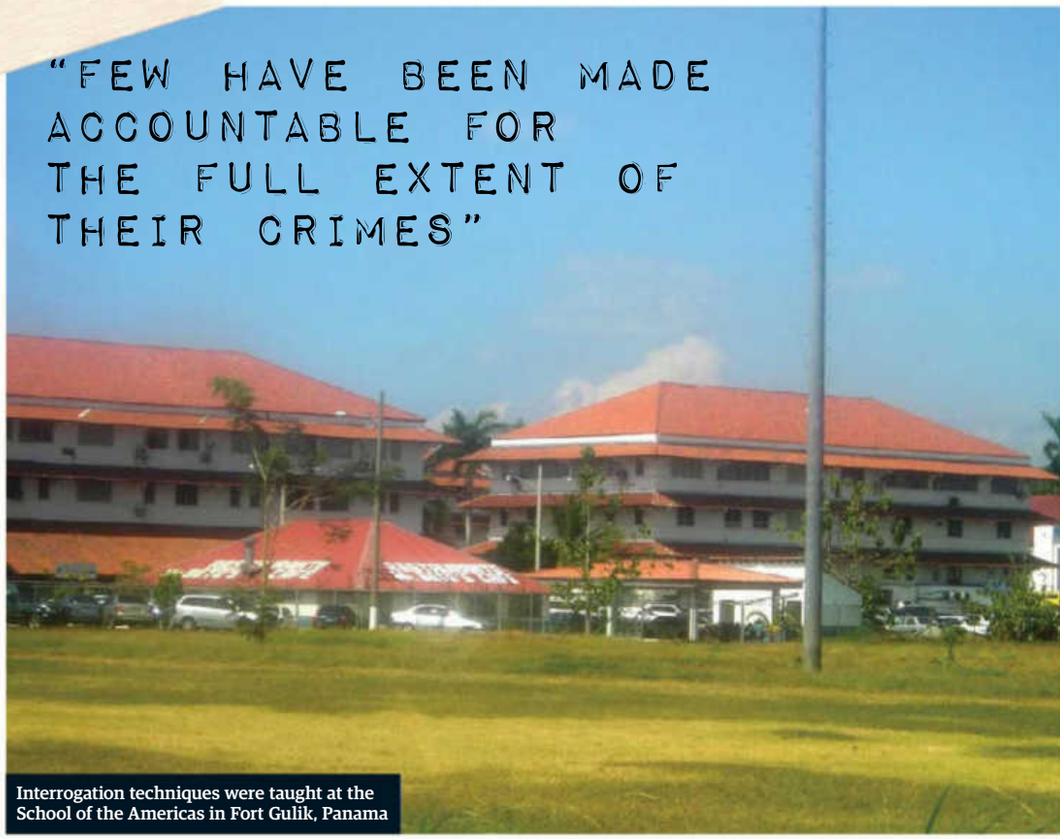
The seed of the principles that would guide the Latin American dictatorships of the 1970s would be planted – by the US – in 1946, when the US Army built the School of the Americas at Fort Gulick, Panama. Its motto, "Libertad, Paz y Fraternidad" (Freedom, Peace and Fraternity), was, much like its name, a thinly disguised euphemism for what the School of the Americas actually promoted: anything but communism.

In 1961, as the Cold War amped up, it began to teach anti-communist counter-insurgency to South American military personnel. Some have suggested that in the early years, this included torture methods. Its notorious graduates included Jorge Rafael Videla (Argentinian dictator from 1976-81), Hugo Banzer (Bolivian dictator from 1971-78), Manuel Contreras (head of Chile's secret police from 1973-77) and Manuel Noriega (Panamanian dictator from 1983-89).

The list from Operation Condor's era alone is a long one. All had involvement in the extensive human rights abuses perpetrated by the operation, all have blood on their hands, and yet few have been made accountable for the full extent of their crimes. Curiously, included in the School of the Americas alumni are members of Los Zetas, the powerful and notoriously violent Mexican crime cartel that favours intimidation and brutal assassination over bribery. In this case at the very least, the US clearly shot itself in the foot.



Military members of the Bolivian junta are sworn in with the support of Brazil and Peru



"FEW HAVE BEEN MADE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR CRIMES"

Interrogation techniques were taught at the School of the Americas in Fort Gulik, Panama

Mitrione's methods were practiced daily. Tales of abuse and torture were rife from the surviving victims. In 1979, Videla described the victims as "... not dead or alive... just disappeared," and indeed, many who went missing during this time have never been accounted for and are presumed dead.

The CIA had complicity in this 'Dirty War' and Henry Kissinger had been well aware of the Argentinian military's tactics since 1970. By 1976, US Congress had become concerned about the human rights abuses and was considering sanctions against Argentina. In a recently declassified transcript, Kissinger sought to reassure the visiting Argentinian foreign minister, Admiral César Augusto Guzzetti, that he had US backing.

"I have an old-fashioned view that friends ought to be supported," said Kissinger. "What is not understood in the United States is that you have a civil war. We read about human rights problems, but not the context. The quicker you succeed the better... The human rights problem is a growing one... We want a stable situation. We won't cause you unnecessary difficulties. If you can finish before Congress gets back, the better. Whatever freedoms you could restore would help."

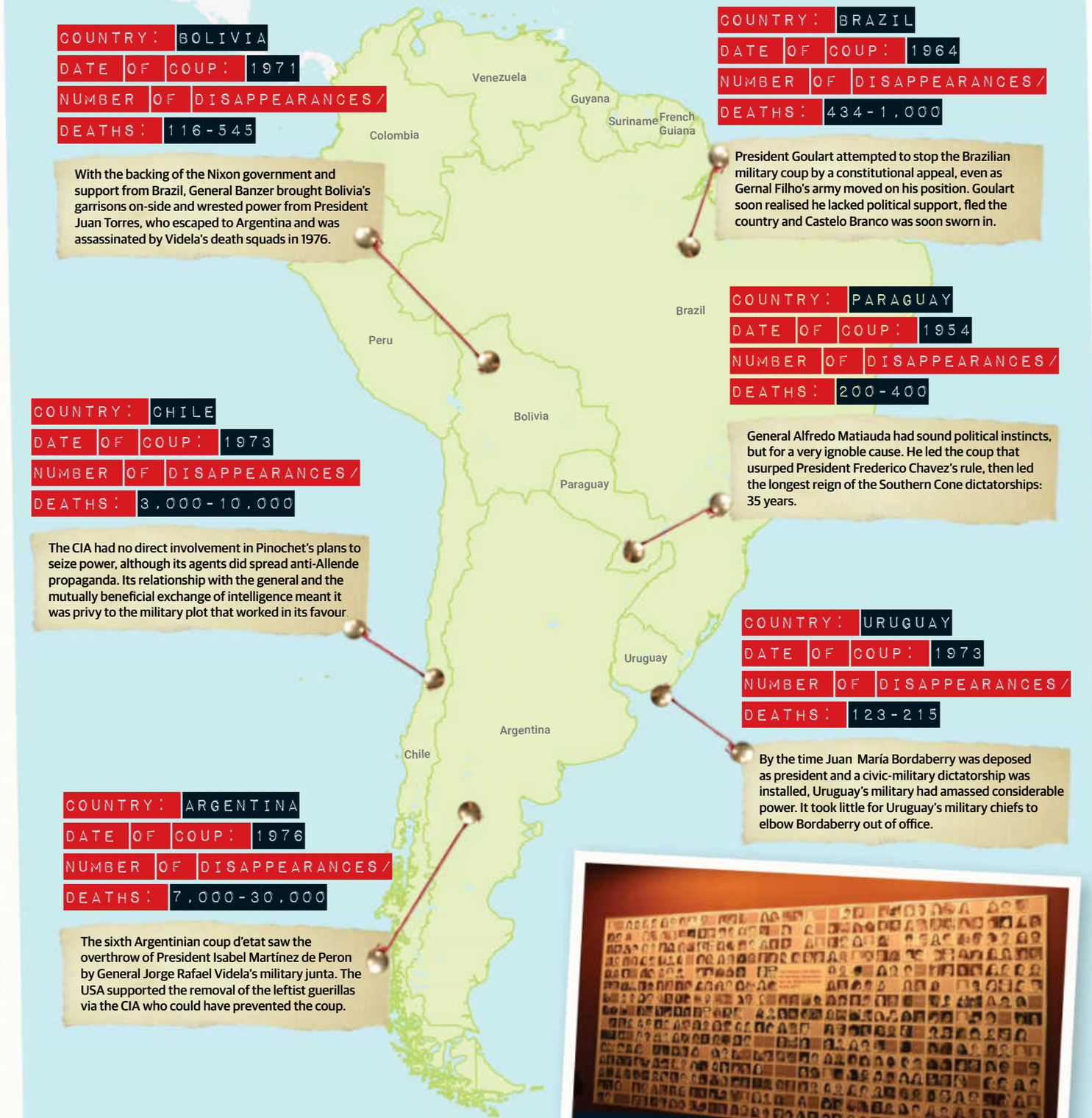
In 1999, US President Bill Clinton ordered the declassification and release of thousands of documents, confirming that the CIA had intimate knowledge of Operation Condor and even some indirect involvement in the state-sanctioned murders and atrocities committed by Southern Cone juntas. The documents also showed that the CIA and the State Department had the intelligence to prevent the assassination of Orlando Letelier, among others, but allowed it to happen anyway.

Strictly speaking, Operation Condor was a success, for a time. Through a campaign of merciless repression and active elimination of political foes, the juntas of six Latin American countries held communism at bay. The US leadership at the time was able to show how it was winning the war against the Reds and at the same time support US business interests abroad, boosting its economy. But even without pragmatic hindsight, it was clearly unsustainable. The interpretation of a 'communist' had gone from far left-wing political activists and urban guerillas opposed to the regime, to people with views that didn't align with state ideology to friends and families of those people regardless of their political opinions. Pinochet and company were throwing the baby out with the bathwater in order to maintain absolute control.

Inevitably, as international attention focused on the horror unfolding across South America, the CIA pulled funding and support as the US weighed up the risk of being associated with human rights atrocities. By 1989, with the end of Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega's regime and the fall of the Iron Curtain, Condor came to an end. The CIA brushed another of its sordid engagements under the carpet and, for a while, that's where it stayed.

CIA CRIMES IN SOUTH AMERICA

THE BLOODY HAND OF OPERATION CONDOR CLAIMED THOUSANDS OF LIVES



COUNTRY: BOLIVIA
DATE OF COUP: 1971
NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES/ DEATHS: 116-545

With the backing of the Nixon government and support from Brazil, General Banzer brought Bolivia's garrisons on-side and wrested power from President Juan Torres, who escaped to Argentina and was assassinated by Videla's death squads in 1976.

COUNTRY: BRAZIL
DATE OF COUP: 1964
NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES/ DEATHS: 434-1,000

President Goulart attempted to stop the Brazilian military coup by a constitutional appeal, even as Gernal Filho's army moved on his position. Goulart soon realised he lacked political support, fled the country and Castelo Branco was soon sworn in.

COUNTRY: PARAGUAY
DATE OF COUP: 1954
NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES/ DEATHS: 200-400

General Alfredo Matiauda had sound political instincts, but for a very ignoble cause. He led the coup that usurped President Frederico Chavez's rule, then led the longest reign of the Southern Cone dictatorships: 35 years.

COUNTRY: CHILE
DATE OF COUP: 1973
NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES/ DEATHS: 3,000-10,000

The CIA had no direct involvement in Pinochet's plans to seize power, although its agents did spread anti-Allende propaganda. Its relationship with the general and the mutually beneficial exchange of intelligence meant it was privy to the military plot that worked in its favour.

COUNTRY: URUGUAY
DATE OF COUP: 1973
NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES/ DEATHS: 123-215

By the time Juan María Bordaberry was deposed as president and a civic-military dictatorship was installed, Uruguay's military had amassed considerable power. It took little for Uruguay's military chiefs to elbow Bordaberry out of office.

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA
DATE OF COUP: 1976
NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES/ DEATHS: 7,000-30,000

The sixth Argentinian coup d'etat saw the overthrow of President Isabel Martínez de Peron by General Jorge Rafael Videla's military junta. The USA supported the removal of the leftist guerillas via the CIA who could have prevented the coup.

A mural of some of the many fathers and mothers who 'disappeared', in the 'House for Identity', Buenos Aires

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What if... Richard III had lived?

Explore what might have been had the white rose of York bloomed from the soil of Bosworth Field and the Tudor usurper died instead

Written by Matt Lewis

King Richard III lost the Battle of Bosworth on 22 August 1485, and with his death, 331 years of Plantagenet rule ended and the Tudor dynasty was born. For more than a century the Tudors went on to reshape England. Richard III remains a man who divides opinion, often bitterly. So how different might England have been if the Yorkist king's cavalry charge had succeeded and Henry Tudor had died that day?

With the last threat to his throne extinguished, Richard returns to his plans. Embassies step up negotiations to marry the widowed king to Joanna of Portugal, sister to King John II, and his niece Elizabeth of York to John's cousin, Manuel. The deeply religious Joanna had turned down the king of France but pressure from her brother encourages her to agree to marry Richard. In 1487, Joanna arrives in England with her cousin for a double wedding. The Lancastrian blood of the Portuguese royal family is joined to Richard's Yorkist line, uniting the red and white roses.

King Richard continues the work of his first parliament, taking his vengeance on the nobility who failed to support him at Bosworth while promoting the causes of the common man and the merchant class. Many of the great families of England are lost, with only a small number of Richard's key supporters rewarded, but trade flourishes as the general population feel more enfranchised. With the birth of a son, named Richard, in 1489, the king's dynastic confidence grows. As plans for a long-desired war against France progress, his efforts are frustrated by the lack of nobles to provide feudal levies or money for mercenaries as Scotland uses the Auld Alliance to create trouble on the northern borders.

Exploration features highly in England's outlook as English ships are requested to help in his voyages along the African coast. When Columbus returns from his voyage to discover America in 1493, the Treaty of Tordesillas splits new discoveries three ways between Spain, Portugal and England. Trade blossoms further in England with new routes opening up, no fractious nobility to threaten internal security and a burgeoning middle class. The English fleet focuses west, seeking to exploit the opportunities of the New World, establishing colonies and more trade routes.

In 1495, King John dies without a legitimate heir and is succeeded by Manuel with Elizabeth as his queen. The couple have several children and make strong matches across Europe. Richard's inflexibility causes friction between England, Portugal and Spain as the vast wealth of the New World sows seeds of discord. The rest of his life is spent trying to protect the flow of treasure from the west from the increasing piracy of the French.

Richard III dies in 1509, succeeded by his 20-year-old son as Richard IV. As the Reformation sweeps across Europe, the influence of Richard IV's devout parents keeps England strictly Catholic in alliance with Portugal and Spain. Protestant nations support French efforts in the ocean and the alliance turns France away from Rome, leaving the centre of Europe Protestant, encircled by Catholic nations in Italy, Spain, Portugal and England, leading to years of conflict.



MATT LEWIS

Matt Lewis is an author and historian specialising in Medieval history, particularly the Wars of the Roses, Richard III and the early Tudor period. His most recent book is a biography of Edward IV and Richard III's father, *Richard, Duke Of York: King By Right*. His next book is a biography, titled *Henry III: Son Of Magna Carta*, published by Amberley. He has also written *The Wars Of The Roses: The Key Players In The Struggle For Supremacy* and two historical fiction novels, *Loyalty* and *Honour*.

How would it be different?

The Battle of Bosworth
Henry Tudor is ridden down and killed by a cavalry charge of King Richard III's household knights. The final threat to the Yorkist crown is extinguished. **22 August 1485**

King Richard's second parliament sits
Laws promoting trade and justice are again published in English and a weakened nobility cannot oppose the measures. **January-March 1486**

A royal wedding
Princess Joanna of Portugal arrives to marry Richard III, uniting the white and red roses. Her cousin Manuel accompanies her to marry Richard's niece, Elizabeth of York. **May 1487**

Birth of Prince Richard
Queen Joanna gives birth to a son, named Richard for his father and grandfather. The Yorkist king's dynastic security grows, increasing his authority at home. **February 1489**

Joint settlements established in West Africa
England joins Portuguese voyages of exploration and a settlement at São Tomé and Principe provides a platform for colonisation of Africa. **1491-93**



Richard's reign might have seen England take a leading role in the exploration of the new world

Columbus returns from his first voyage to America
The Treaty of Tordesillas splits new territories three ways, between Spain, Portugal and its increasingly important naval partner England. **4 March 1493**

Death of King John II of Portugal
John II, known as the Perfect Prince, dies. Richard tries to negotiate the crown for his son, but Manuel's primogeniture claim wins. **25 October 1495**

Richard III dies at Windsor
At the age of 57, Richard III dies after a short illness at Windsor and is buried in the mausoleum his brother established there. Richard IV is crowned. **21 April 1509**

The Pacific Ocean is reached
A joint English and Portuguese expedition beats the Spanish to the Pacific Ocean and dominates North and Central American colonisation, increasing the nations' wealth. **1512**

The Reformation hits a wall in the west
The influence of Richard IV's mother and ties with Portugal and Spain keep England Catholic. The Reformation succeeds in France. **1517**

© Kevin McGivern

BOATS AND SHIPS

From the earliest floating contraptions to the largest, most impressive sea-worthy vessels of the modern age, here are just a few wonders of the waves



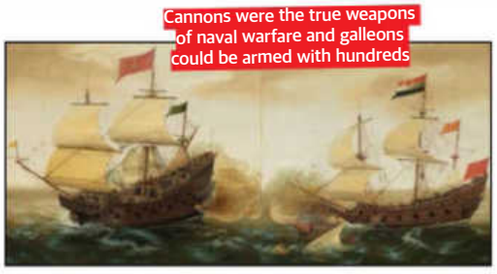
Dugboats are considered one of the earliest forms of sea vessel, with incarnations appearing across world history

DUGOUT CANOE 6000 BCE

Dugouts, sometimes known as logboats or monoxylon, are some of the earliest known boats in history. Most versions were created by hollowing out a large log in order to construct a vessel that was light enough to float yet sturdy enough to withstand heavy use. Round-bottomed incarnations were used as early as the Neolithic Stone Age, and flat-bottomed ones with a central beam were later introduced. Those that were taken further out to sea were even fitted with primitive outriggers.

GALLEON 16TH CENTURY

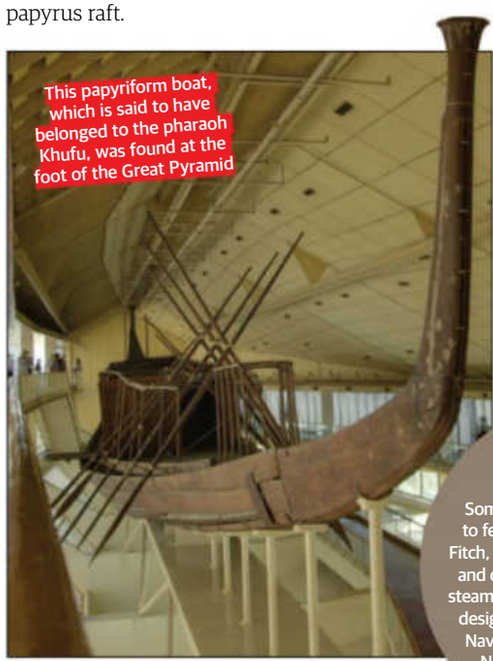
European ship designs evolved considerably over the Medieval and Early Modern periods, with the creation of the galleon forming the birth of a truly naval-minded continent. Used primarily from the 16th to the 18th centuries, this multi-decked, wind-powered ship formed the blueprint of the Napoleonic era and helped facilitate the rise of the British Empire as the most dominant power in the world. Believed to be Venetian in origin, the galleon became the de facto ship design for every nation that was rich enough to produce them. Usually made from oak, pine and hardwoods, the largest galleon designs (such as the Spanish Man O' War) could hold up to 1,500 men.



Cannons were the true weapons of naval warfare and galleons could be armed with hundreds

PAPYRIFORM BOAT 2500 BCE

Before the Romans and the Babylonians rose to power, the Egyptians were one of the most influential nations in the world. Much like the Greeks, this ancient empire relied on sea vessels as both a means of commerce and warfare, and the papyriform became one of its most popular designs. These were often used by royalty or high-ranking nobles and combined the long shape, multiple oars and high sails of a wooden boat while incorporating the curved stern and bows of a papyrus raft.



This papyriform boat, which is said to have belonged to the pharaoh Khufu, was found at the foot of the Great Pyramid



The Viking longship left its impact across the world, and is depicted in the *Bayeux Tapestry*

VIKING LONGSHIP C.600

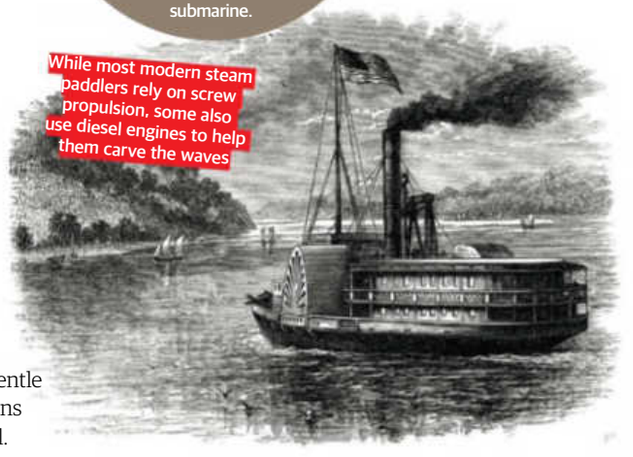
The longship, or longboat, was the vessel of choice for the Norse peoples of Scandinavia. Based in a land that made domestic agriculture difficult at best, the Vikings transformed into a reaving collective, raiding in both the East and the West. The longship was just one of the many naval innovations the Norse created to facilitate this culture, with each one outfitted for months of sailing. These boats were designed to approach a shore at speed, enabling warriors to disembark straight into battle. These vessels became a vital part of their identity, terrifying victims with their bows carved in the form of Norse beasts.

Robert Fulton
AMERICAN 1765-1815

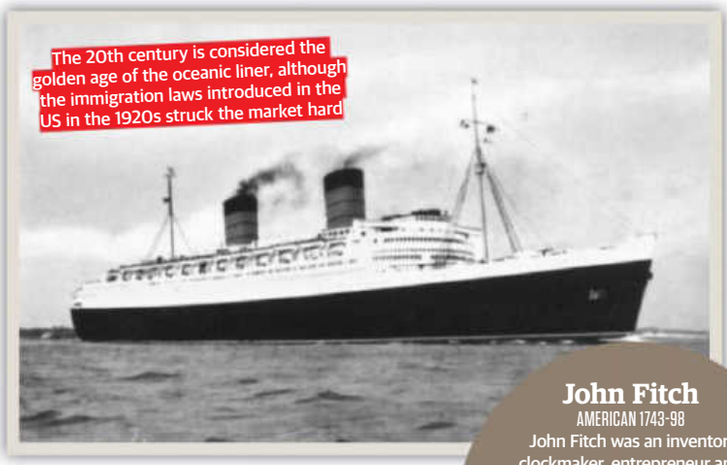
Somewhat of a professional rival to fellow American inventor John Fitch, Fulton is credited with creating and operating the first commercial steamboat, the Clermont. Fulton also designed torpedoes for the British Navy, and was commissioned by Napoleon to create Nautilus, the first practical submarine.

PADDLE STEAMER 19TH CENTURY

While its use has become synonymous with the United States in the 1800s, the paddle boat evolved in design in Medieval Europe and Asia in the 4th century onwards. Most paddle steamers come in two variations – the sternwheeler (with the paddle wheel at the rear of the boat), and the sidewheeler. During the late 1800s, as the Old West drew to a close, paddle steamers became a popular means of gentle travel down river, although some versions were and are outfitted for oceanic travel.



While most modern steam paddlers rely on screw propulsion, some also use diesel engines to help them carve the waves



The 20th century is considered the golden age of the oceanic liner, although the immigration laws introduced in the US in the 1920s struck the market hard

OCEAN LINER 1880

For 100 years, ocean liners were the go-to means of oceanic travel, dominating the mid-19th century to the 1950s. Even the mass coverage of disasters at sea, such as the losses of RMS Titanic in 1912 and HMHS Britannic in 1916, couldn't slow its dominance as a commercial giant for decades. Designed to carry hundreds of passengers and large amounts of cargo, ocean liners initially featured sails before those that used steam took over as the true form following the Industrial Revolution.

John Fitch
AMERICAN 1743-98
John Fitch was an inventor, clockmaker, entrepreneur and engineer, but he's perhaps most famous for creating one of America's first steamboats and operating the first steamboat service in the USA. Due to a law that forbade new technology being exported to the former British colony, Fitch had to build his own idea of steamboat based on drawings.

AIRCRAFT CARRIER 1918

Arguably one of the most transformative sea vessels ever introduced to naval warfare, the aircraft carrier unlocked the ability to land, refuel and direct aircraft across the waves. The very first aircraft carriers date back as far as 1903, but it wasn't until 1918 and the launch of HMS Argus that flat-topped aircraft carriers became a viable means of launching and landing aircraft at sea. While these ships missed World War I, the aircraft carrier dramatically changed the way in which the Allies co-ordinated aerial warfare in World War II.



The aircraft carrier has no one true form or design as almost every modern navy has its own iteration



Submarines, such as the German U-Boat design pictured here, were used extensively on both sides in World War II

SUBMARINE 19TH CENTURY

The submarine, or submersible, has become a staple of naval operations, with its ability to navigate the depths of the world's oceans. The very first submersibles actually date back to the 16th century, but it wasn't until the very end of the 19th century that a viable design that didn't rely on manual propulsion was introduced. These early designs, such as those used by the French in 1900, debuted the double-ended hull we see today and relied on electrical power and steam. After having a huge impact on both world wars, modern submarines also incorporate nuclear reactors to power them.

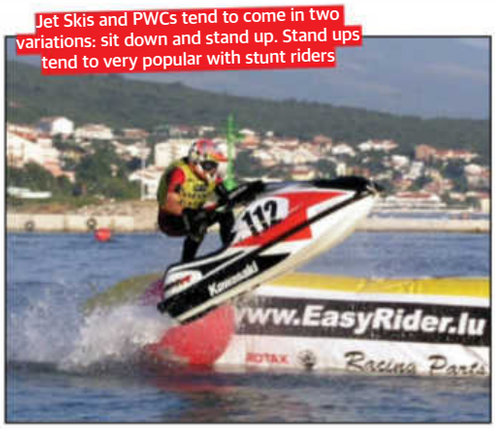
Isambard Kingdom Brunel
BRITISH 1806-59
One of the most famous inventors, Brunel was one of the biggest driving forces behind the Industrial Revolution. Under his direction, dockyards were constructed across Britain, enabling him to oversee the creation of a new age of ocean liners and sea vessels.



Due to the large fan at its rear, hovercraft are often piloted rather than steered

HOVERCRAFT 1959

One of the most unusual and spectacular craft to ever take to the sea, the hovercraft, or ACV (air-cushion vehicle), is a British invention that found its most productive and recognisable form with the SRN1 in 1958. The hovercraft differs from other craft by using pressurised air that is blown through slits in an inflated skirt beneath the craft. This design enables it to move across water, ice, land and other surfaces, making it popular with disaster relief efforts, the military and coast guards around the world. Hovercraft are also used for short trips in the commercial sector.



Jet Skis and PWCs tend to come in two variations: sit down and stand up. Stand ups tend to very popular with stunt riders

JET SKI 1973

In an example of a brand name becoming synonymous with the object itself, the Jet Ski is a personal watercraft produced by Japanese automotive manufacturer Kawasaki. Invented by Norwegian American engineer Clayton Jacobson II, the Jet Ski first entered the market in 1972 and quickly became a must-have for the rich, the famous and the adventurous. Known officially as a PWC (personal watercraft), the Jet Ski uses an inboard engine that drives a pump jet. This enables the craft to bounce along the surface of the water at great speeds with considerable manoeuvrability.

© Alamy

Caravaggio's Life of Crime

Rogue, murderer, legend: The scandalous story of the killer artist that painted Rome red

Written by Ella Carter

"A stocky young man... with a thin black beard, thick eyebrows and black eyes who goes dressed all in black... in a rather disorderly fashion." This is one of the only known descriptions of a man called Michelangelo Merisi. Few people recognised his name, but most would pull their children closer and cross the road if they saw the swish of his caped silhouette cut through the gloom of Rome's backstreets.

The dark description matches a dark life: a thug, a brawler, and frequently locked up for lewd behaviour and illicit activity. Challenge him in the shadows and you may live to regret it, but pause to view him in the light and you will leave astonished. By day, this man painted some of the world's most glorious masterpieces. Towering canvasses of breathtakingly detailed scenes, exultantly displayed above altars and splashed across the walls of Rome's elite.

Michelangelo Merisi may exist in history with relative anonymity, but the master behind the name is Caravaggio – one of the art world's most celebrated baroque painters. His life, much like his work, shows a bizarre roller-coaster ride from dark to light and back again, as incredible talent existed hand-in-hand with a reputation as a vengeful and unpredictable scoundrel.

16th-century Rome was full to bursting with soldiers, beggars, priests and whores. Yet, in 1592, when 21-year-old Caravaggio made his way to the Eternal City, the depraved core of the Roman metropolis was being steadily coated with shiny Catholic gloss by Pope Clement VIII. Artists were in high demand, and this was the city that would both make and break the young painter. In a style that was to colour his entire life, Caravaggio showed up in Rome alone and on the run, potentially dodging his first murder charge.

Born in September 1571 to an artisan stonemason, the young Michelangelo Merisi grew up in a small town near Milan called Caravaggio – the name he would later adopt as his own. He lost his father and grandfather to bubonic plague at a young age, and so with no male role model to act as a moral compass, the adolescent Caravaggio was seduced by Milan's shady underworld. Armed with quick wit and a sharp temper, he let the current of

© Kevin McGivern



general skulduggery carry him until he had sunken so deep that he had to run to Rome for his life.

Not content with painting just fruit and flowers in the studio of his master, Caravaggio began working on his own paintings. Before he began to paint the scenes from the *Bible* for which he is so renowned, Caravaggio painted ordinary people and *Boy With A Basket Of Fruit* was one of his earliest works. The boy in the painting is fresh-faced and pretty, with an easy attitude and an alluring air. It's thought that Caravaggio used his fellow artist and friend Mario Minniti as a model for this painting. His suggestive expression and come-to-bed eyes have led many to assume that the pair's relationship extended past the camaraderie of disgruntled painters' apprentices. In his short life, Caravaggio never married, but he most certainly enjoyed the company of both men and women – in a city so brimming with prostitutes and purveyors of the flesh, who could resist?



The only portrait of Caravaggio by another artist is this chalk piece by Ottavio Leoni

In 1595, Caravaggio got his first 'big break' in the form of the patronage from Cardinal Francesco Maria Bourbon del Monte. He was an art lover and a collector, and helped to secure Caravaggio's first commission for Christian artwork, paintings for San Luigi dei Francesi, the Church of the French in Rome. It was also purported that del Monte was a keen indulger in the company of men, and that in offering the young painter lodging and work, there was a more lustful purpose beside his admirations of Caravaggio's professional talents. Of course such a scandal is just speculation, no evidence exists as proof either way.

As Caravaggio painted and whored his way around Rome, his personal life was almost as dark as the shades he mixed for his canvasses. In a society where honour was everything and reputation was a matter of life and death, the members of the artistic community were volatile, thought to be driven crazy by their potent painting materials. Stories of sabotage penetrated artistic circles, and instances of badmouthing other artists were taken very seriously. Caravaggio, being an adamant and ambitious personality as well as a bit of a hot-head, was never afraid to enter the fray, letting his rivals know what he thought of them and (sometimes very literally) tearing a strip out of anyone who dared do the same to him. Where some scores were settled with violent trysts in the street (Caravaggio once ambushed and stabbed a critic in the back), others were settled on canvas, as Caravaggio decided to outdo his rivals in paint.

By 1598, Caravaggio had made a name for himself in the artistic community and as a swaggering miscreant on the streets of Rome. He was known to cavort around with a rowdy bunch of other artists who all lived by the motto 'nec spe, nec metu' – without hope, without fear. Caravaggio and his cronies were known to dress pompously, like knights and noblemen, and cruise the piazzas by day, start fights and frequent the whorehouses by night, then pick more fights before picking up



Caravaggio's *Judith Beheading Holofernes* features the courtesan, Fillide Melandroni, who modelled for some of his paintings. She appears here as Judith





Baglione's second working of *Divine Love* features Caravaggio as the devil, guiltily caught with a cupid

Rivals in paint

Caravaggio and nemesis artist Giovanni Baglione were embroiled in a high-stakes war that took place on canvas

Italian painter Giovanni Baglione was intensely jealous of Caravaggio's success. Fuelled by his envy, in 1602 he painted a picture to rival and openly slur Caravaggio at an annual exhibition. Baglione then took this further by repainting the scene *Divine Love* with Caravaggio's unmistakable features in the face of the devil, outwardly accusing him of sodomy.

Caravaggio waited to retaliate, and in 1603 he circulated lewd and sexual poems about Baglione across Rome, giving him a nickname that translates to 'Jonny Baggage' or 'Jonny Testicle'. The artists' feud would continue, with Baglione even accusing Caravaggio of hiring an assassin. However, after Caravaggio's death, it was Baglione who was one of the artist's first biographers, filling his work in part with truths and in part with his own personal musings of the artist's shortcomings.



Boy With A Basket Of Fruit is one of Caravaggio's earliest works and was painted c.1593





Caravaggio's art, as well as his lifestyle, caused controversy, with *The Death Of The Virgin* being rejected by the church

24 April 1604

Food Fight!

Rome restaurant left reeling as artist paints with food

Renowned bad boy of baroque Caravaggio was arrested on 24 April 1604 for causing a ruckus in a restaurant. Witnesses say the revered Roman took almighty umbrage at artichokes that were not cooked to his taste. "I told him to smell them," the assaulted waiter said, at which point Caravaggio proceeded to fling the plate at the man's face.

1 September 1605

REVENGE PLOT UNCOVERED

Caravaggio hurls stones at landlady's house

Once again Rome's red-blooded delinquent has hit the headlines, this time for abusing the trust and kind nature of his hardworking landlady. Prudentia Bruni, who owns artist Caravaggio's current dwelling, had her own house pelted with stones as the painter flew into a rage when she exercised her right to lock him out because the degenerate tenant owed her rent.

04 May 1598

Painting with blood?

Celebrity artist caught with illegal weapon

Highly strung artist Caravaggio evidently deems himself above the law. The latest police report states that he was caught at 3am on 4 May 1598, carrying a weapon for which he had no licence. What does a painter need with armament, when canvas is his only battleground and his paintbrush is his sword?

Date: 19 October 1604

The artful dodgers of the law

Painter's crew is banged up

Michelangelo de Caravaggio, Rome's very own lush with a paintbrush, has been arrested yet again, along with three other members of his infamous group of misfits and thugs. This time the offenders were remanded into police custody for viciously throwing stones and hurling lewd insults at the protectors of our great city.

Who killed Caravaggio?

With no corpse, the artist's demise is cloaked in mystery yet reeks of murder

After years of full-on baroque 'n' roll in Rome culminating in the murder of a member of a dangerous family, there were a fair few people who had it in for the disgraced painter. There were just as many theories as to how he met his end. We know that he was aged 38 when he died somewhere on his journey from Naples to Rome, but we don't know where, what happened to his body, whether he was murdered, and if so, who ended the artist's life.

The long list of people who wanted Caravaggio dead included the Knights of Malta, the pope and other notable Italian families. Some even believe that his own paints poisoned him. Other reports, such as the one from the boatman who was carrying his paintings, say that he was taken ill. In reality, it was most likely the Knights of Malta who delivered the deathblow. Caravaggio was attacked viciously when he visited the Cerriglio brothel in Naples, in October 1609. He was slashed across the face – a wound of shame known as a sfregio on the Italian streets. This wound would not have healed, and so, as Caravaggio made his final journey from Naples to Rome, perhaps chasing his belongings on an errant ship off Porto Ercole, his wounds most likely got the better of him. Despite some claims, his body has never been 100% identified.



How Caravaggio ended up in Porto Ercole is unclear. Was he chasing the ship that left without him?

a woman. Caravaggio often used his prostitutes as models, painting their likeness in exchange for other favours. The dark-haired beauty Fillide Melandroni became his favourite, taking a leading role in at least three of his paintings. Perhaps it was her violent nature he was drawn to, as Caravaggio had also taken to openly carrying a sword for which he was routinely arrested (he required a license but had none) but was always acquitted when he dropped the name of his employer.

It was his friends in high places that elevated Caravaggio's self-importance. He knew that his talent was revered, and he also knew that this appreciation of his work would mean that the powers that be could undo any of his wrongs and get him pardoned for his crimes. On one such occasion, Caravaggio was sued for libel by rival painter Giovanni Baglione and consequently imprisoned. The charges were then elevated after an accusation of sodomy – an act punishable by death. However, on 25 September 1603, he was miraculously freed from jail, bailed on guarantee from the French ambassador. Although by this point he had accepted a new patronage with the powerful Mattei family, it was likely his old friend Cardinal del Monte had a hand in his release.

Following this most recent brush with the law, life got slowly worse for Caravaggio. He was still painting, but he was falling slowly out of favour and was being drawn deeper into criminal activity. Some say it was the rejection of *The Death Of The Virgin* that sent him into a downward spiral. The painting was a commission by a Vatican law official and depicted the mortal remains of Mary without any religious iconography typical of the time. It was seen as an all-too raw and realistic representation of the mother of Christ and so the clergy deemed it unworthy of the church. This was an artist that refused to conform.

Caravaggio was arrested and incarcerated repeatedly, having been caught throwing rocks at policemen and also partaking in a bit of light 'door shaming'. This was a strange practice where men would approach the houses of women who had spurned them in the dead of night and throw insults, stones and sometimes blood and excrement at their doors. Evidently, Caravaggio was keen to show the lady who declined his advances the kind of refined and elegant man she had turned down. He was also taken to trial for attacking a Vatican notary from behind, and even accused of being a pimp among many other scandalous denunciations.

We are able to gain such a rich and detailed look into the sordid and crazy life of Caravaggio thanks to the incredibly detailed archives of the Roman police, or sbirri. Each account of Caravaggio's wrongdoings and altercations with the law was painstakingly recorded in handwritten script, providing a timeline of his various misdemeanours and their corresponding lucky escapes. However, Caravaggio's luck was about to run out.



Cardinal Francesco Maria del Monte was an early patron of Caravaggio

The undoing of Michelangelo Merisi de Caravaggio began on 28 May 1606. Official documents say he attended a match of pallacorda, a tennis-like game popular at the time. However, no pallacorda was to be played – this was just a ruse to cover up the fact that it was a duel between Caravaggio and Ranuccio Tomassoni – a well-known pimp that controlled his favourite courtesan, Fillide Melandroni. Duelling was illegal and punishable by death. Whether they were fighting over her, territory, or something else, we will never know for sure. But what is clear is that Caravaggio managed to incapacitate Tomassoni, and using his 1.2-metre-long duelling sword, attempted to castrate his opponent. Lacking the skill to accomplish this ambitious butchery, Caravaggio instead stabbed him in the femoral artery and left Tomassoni to bleed to death.

After taking a life, Caravaggio fled. He was exiled and made a 'bando capitale', meaning anyone in the Papal States was within their rights to kill him and take his head back to Rome to claim a handsome reward. Outlawed, he absconded to Naples and sought protection with the Colonna family, who had ties with his late mother. It was here that he painted *David With The Head Of Goliath*. Goliath's head is yet another self-portrait of Caravaggio, almost as if he was taunting the authorities that his head was still firmly on his shoulders. The painter stayed in Naples for nine months before moving on to Malta.

Although outlawed and debased, there was still some of the swaggering Caravaggio left intact, as when in Malta he was keen to join the Knights Of Saint John (also known as the Knights Of Malta), a holy chivalric order dating back to the Crusades. As an accomplished swordsman, he fitted the brief well, and after impressing the knights with a portrait of their leader, he was inducted into the order despite his criminal record. This safety was short lived, however, as in true Caravaggio style he fled after an undocumented altercation. Some believe it was a bust-up between the painter and some knights; some believe it was sexually motivated. Either way, Caravaggio was on the run once more having been de-frocked from the Knights of Malta in absentia.

From Malta, he briefly stayed in Sicily – where he was welcomed as a celebrity artist – before journeying to Naples with the view to travelling back to Rome to receive a papal pardon for his crimes. Sadly, he would never make it that far and would die a criminal. The life of Caravaggio, with its deep, cavernous shadows and amazing, illuminating bright spots that mirrored the startling chiaroscuro of his own masterpieces, would come to an end on his final journey back to Rome.

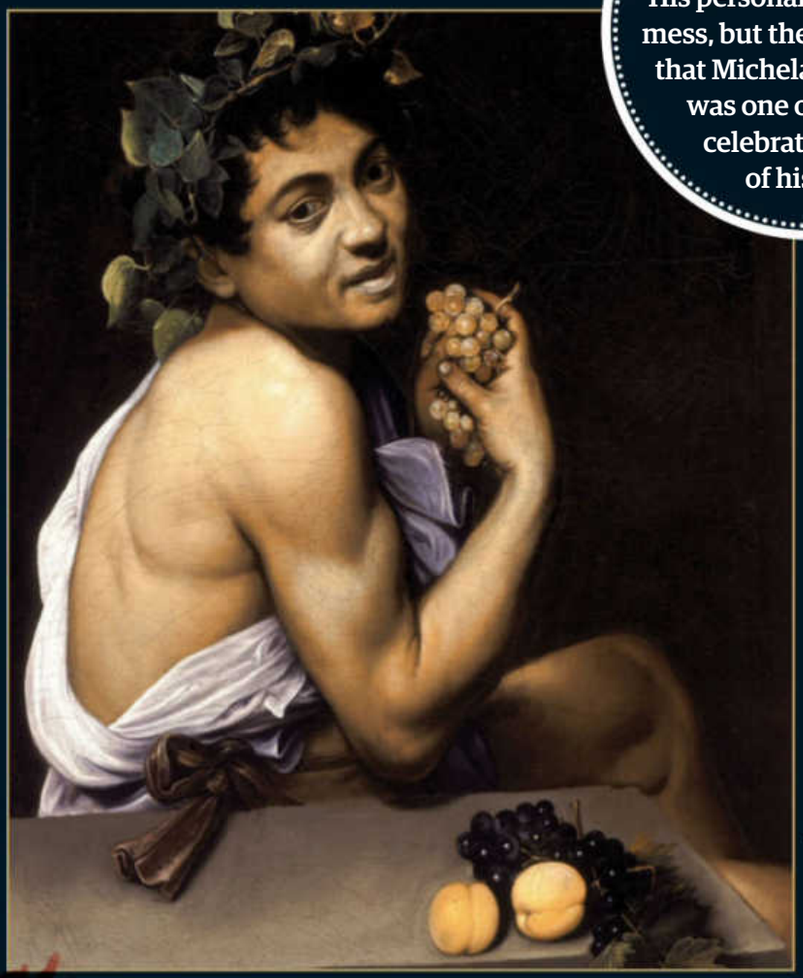
"He was exiled and made a 'bando capitale', meaning anyone in the Papal States was within their rights to kill him and take his head back to Rome"



The Fortune Teller
c. 1594
One of the few paintings Caravaggio did of real, everyday people. The young nobleman thinks he is getting his palm read, but look closer and you see that the gypsy girl is removing his ring.

CARAVAGGIO'S MASTERPIECES

His personal life was a hot mess, but there is no doubt that Michelangelo Merisi was one of the most celebrated artists of his time



Self Portrait As Bacchus
c.1593
Caravaggio depicts himself as Bacchus, the god of wine, but with a difference. In this painting, he is sick: his lips are a bluish hue and his skin is sallow and yellow.



David With The Head Of Goliath
c.1606
Thought to have been painted in reaction to his criminal acts and sentencing in Rome, David holds up the head of Goliath, whose features show a striking resemblance to Caravaggio himself.

© Getty Images



Light horsemen
Cuirassiers wore heavy metal breastplates to offer some protection from gunshots and blades, but the colonial light cavalry from Africa were much more suited for speed rather than prolonged hand-to-hand fighting.

Prussian line infantry
Though the charging French easily cut down the Prussian skirmishers, the regular infantry were able to form lines and deliver rapid volley fire. The discipline, accuracy and speed of the Prussian infantry combined to prevent any breakthrough.

Battlefield carnage
As the first lines of cavalry were shot dead, or wounded, the mounting bodies impeded the charge of their comrades behind them. This killed any momentum of the French attack and left slow-moving horsemen vulnerable.



Cavalry charge
During the afternoon of 1 September, French cavalry squadrons made repeated attempts to break through the Prussian encirclement, including the heavily armoured cuirassiers and the light cavalry from the French colonies.

GREATEST BATTLES

BATTLE OF SEDAN

NORTH-EAST FRANCE 1 SEPTEMBER 1870

Written by Tim Williamson

On 1 September 1870, around the small fortified town of Sedan, the fate of two great European powers would be decided in one colossal clash of arms. For days previous, the French Army of Chalons under General Patrice MacMahon had been pursued by a much larger German force, the Army of the Meuse, under the command of General Helmuth von Moltke. The French force had already suffered a string of humiliating defeats at the hands of the Germans, and was desperately attempting to relieve the besieged fortress of Metz. Travelling with the army, though not in direct command, was the emperor of France, Napoleon III.

In the finals days of August, MacMahon's army had finally been caught and a series of small pitched battles ensued as it retreated towards the fortified town of Sedan, where MacMahon hoped a strong defence could be mounted. Von Moltke deployed his forces in order to surround the town with a pincer movement, cutting off any chance of a French retreat – they would either surrender or die fighting. "Now we have them in a mousetrap," Von Moltke commented to his officers. The cunning Prussian tactician had ordered his men into a forced march, so that they may outmanoeuvre and surround the French army.

MacMahon had carefully organised the defence of the area, leaving an experienced garrison of marines in the village of Bazielles to the south-east of Sedan. However, he assigned much less experienced men to the defences east of the town, along the River Gironne, hoping the steep terrain would be enough to deter any serious attack there. Both these positions would see some of the heaviest fighting during the battle.

By the afternoon of 1 September, von Moltke's pincer movement was already tightening its grip on the town and its defenders. On a nearby hill, safe enough away from the fighting, a group of dignitaries were anxiously watching the battle unfold in the distance. Among them was the Prussian King Wilhelm I, von Moltke, two American generals and a British journalist, who witnessed the carnage as the French struggled to escape the German 'mousetrap'. "The regiment of Cuirassiers, their helmets and breast-plates flashing in the September sun, [formed] up in sections of squadrons," the journalist recalled. "[T]he infantry received the Cuirassiers with the most tremendous schnell-feuer (quick fire), at about 108 yards." The charging cavalry were utterly destroyed by the disciplined and accurate Prussian gunfire, bringing the final French counter-attack to a crushing halt.

The aftermath of Sedan spelled the end of the Second French Empire, and its emperor, Napoleon III, was held prisoner. For his German captors, however, this was the beginning of a new era. By 19 September, Paris itself was under siege, and just over three months later the capital surrendered. Adding to the French humiliation, on 18 January the official declaration of German unification was made at the Palace of Versailles – one empire had thereby met its end, while another was born.

Army of the Meuse

TROOPS C.220,000
CANNON C.700



HELMUTH VON MOLTKE
LEADER

This soldier, strategist and statesman was a hero of the early German nation.
Strengths Formidable campaign experience across the globe.
Weakness His 'pincer' strategy was risky and potentially reckless.



PRUSSIAN LINE INFANTRY
KEY UNIT

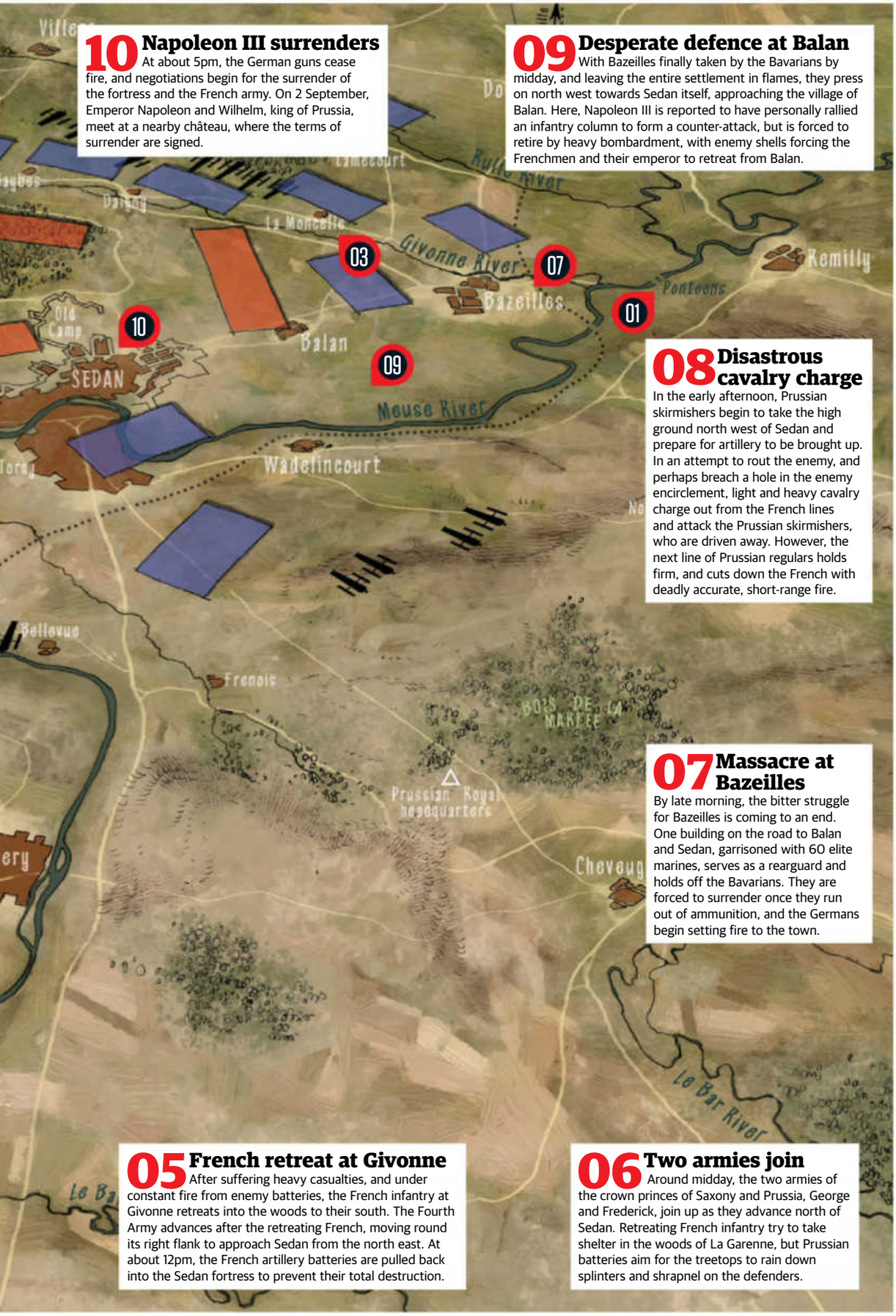
Prussia's drilled and disciplined soldiers were among some of the finest in Europe.
Strengths Able to force march for up to 40 kilometres a day.
Weakness Marching hard under orders without knapsacks left them under-supplied and vulnerable.



DREYSE NEEDLE-GUN
KEY WEAPON

The standard-issue Prussian rifle had devastating capabilities when in the right hands.
Strengths Breech-loading chamber enabled quicker reloading.
Weakness Its range was not as effective its French counterpart on the battlefield, the Chassepot.





10 Napoleon III surrenders

At about 5pm, the German guns cease fire, and negotiations begin for the surrender of the fortress and the French army. On 2 September, Emperor Napoleon and Wilhelm, king of Prussia, meet at a nearby château, where the terms of surrender are signed.

09 Desperate defence at Balan

With Bazeilles finally taken by the Bavarians by midday, and leaving the entire settlement in flames, they press on north west towards Sedan itself, approaching the village of Balan. Here, Napoleon III is reported to have personally rallied an infantry column to form a counter-attack, but is forced to retire by heavy bombardment, with enemy shells forcing the Frenchmen and their emperor to retreat from Balan.

08 Disastrous cavalry charge

In the early afternoon, Prussian skirmishers begin to take the high ground north west of Sedan and prepare for artillery to be brought up. In an attempt to rout the enemy, and perhaps breach a hole in the enemy encirclement, light and heavy cavalry charge out from the French lines and attack the Prussian skirmishers, who are driven away. However, the next line of Prussian regulars holds firm, and cuts down the French with deadly accurate, short-range fire.

07 Massacre at Bazeilles

By late morning, the bitter struggle for Bazeilles is coming to an end. One building on the road to Balan and Sedan, garrisoned with 60 elite marines, serves as a rearguard and holds off the Bavarians. They are forced to surrender once they run out of ammunition, and the Germans begin setting fire to the town.

05 French retreat at Givonne

After suffering heavy casualties, and under constant fire from enemy batteries, the French infantry at Givonne retreats into the woods to their south. The Fourth Army advances after the retreating French, moving round its right flank to approach Sedan from the north east. At about 12pm, the French artillery batteries are pulled back into the Sedan fortress to prevent their total destruction.

06 Two armies join

Around midday, the two armies of the crown princes of Saxony and Prussia, George and Frederick, join up as they advance north of Sedan. Retreating French infantry try to take shelter in the woods of La Garenne, but Prussian batteries aim for the treetops to rain down splinters and shrapnel on the defenders.



Army of Chalons

TROOPS C.120,000
CANNON C.500



PATRICE MACMAHON

LEADER

A perceptive battlefield leader and later president of the Third Republic.
Strengths Great experience serving in the ranks as well as in command.
Weakness Fatal indecision, and failure to defend the river line.



MARINES

KEY UNIT

Hardened soldiers with experience fighting all over the French Empire.
Strengths Superior discipline and training made them great soldiers.
Weakness Too few in number to make a huge impact.



MITRAILLEUSE

KEY WEAPON

An early version of the machine gun, way ahead of its time.
Strengths Devastating on enemy morale and deadly at short range.
Weakness A misunderstood weapon used ineffectively too often at longer range.

© Alamy, Getty Images

HERO OR VILLAIN?

Karl Marx

Discover how the father of communism and one of the most important thinkers of the 19th century changed the world forever, for better or worse

Written by Dom Reseigh-Lincoln



Defining moment

Engagement to von Westphalen

In the autumn of 1836, Marx would make one of the most controversial, and influential, decisions of his entire life: asking for Jenny von Westphalen's hand in marriage. The two had known one another since childhood, but the fact remained that she was a popular and educated baroness belonging to Prussia's elite and her engagement to Marx was a socially unwanted mingling of the classes.

1836

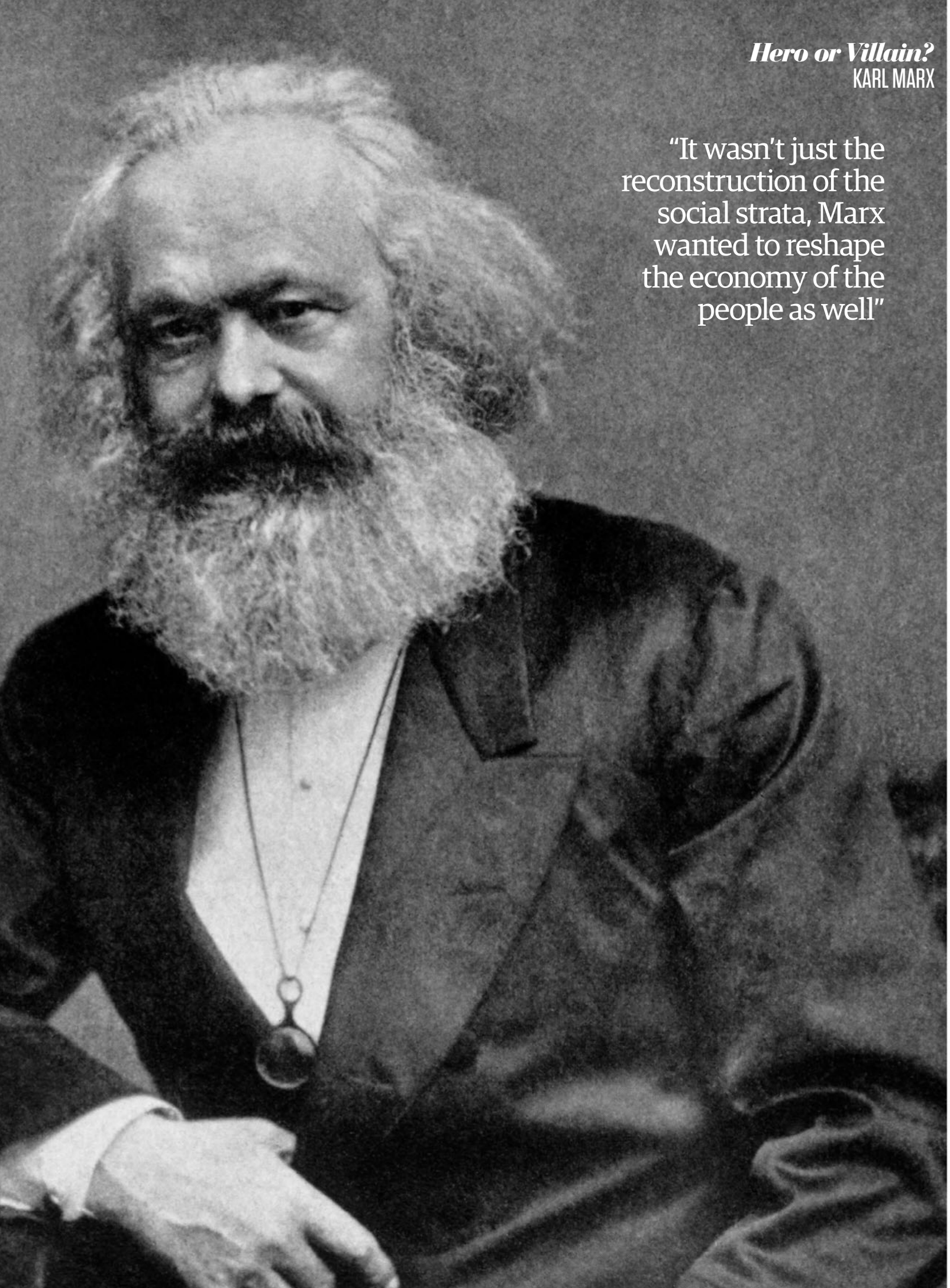
Leaving with only the possessions he and his wife could carry, the defiant German activist, writer and economist Karl Marx was exiled from Paris in 1845 – the European heartland of political debate and discourse. He had barely been living there for two years when the French government and the Prussian nobility, rankled by Marx's speeches and theories on the inherent failings of capitalism, forced him to flee.

By doing so, they believed they had finally stamped out the small fires of Marx's political influence, but they couldn't be more wrong. They only hardened his desire for reform, reinforcing his beliefs that change was needed for people to live in harmony. Even at a distance, Karl Marx knew one thing for sure: revolution was coming.

When he had moved to Paris in October 1843, Marx soon became one of the most influential figures in the world of radical thought. His experiences with the Young Hegelians – a group of German intellectuals who studied the ambiguous legacy of philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel – had transformed him into a socialist with a revolutionary view of the political system: he was a humanist, but one who believed that society could only function by removing the cavernous distance between the working class (the 'proletariat') and the privileged upper classes (the 'bourgeoisie'). It was here that the buds of communism began to bloom in Marx's mind.

He wasted little time making an impact in the French capital, becoming co-editor of the leftist Parisian newspaper, the *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher* (German-French Annals), which aimed to unite French and German socialists under a common banner. Marx became a firm believer in the concept that the proletariat held the true power in society and were the only ones who could usher in a new era of equality. Yet Marx never used this platform to urge united socialists into enacting change through violence – he predicted there would be mass militant uprisings and revolution.

As his fame and notoriety grew, Marx befriended one of his most influential allies, German socialist Friedrich Engels, with whom he would found the Marxist theory. Alongside his fevered work with Engels, Marx was now editing a radical newspaper, engaging in public debates and effectively co-ordinating a political party he was fast becoming the most powerful and influential member of. And yet, Marx still found the time to study the economic aspect of his political leanings. It wasn't just the



"It wasn't just the reconstruction of the social strata, Marx wanted to reshape the economy of the people as well"

Hero or Villain?

KARL MARX



Marx's impact on socialism and the rise of modern communism was huge. This memorial in Moscow reads, "Workers of the world, unite!"



reconstruction of the social strata, Marx wanted to reshape the economy of the people as well.

In 1844, Marx wrote the *Economic And Philosophical Manuscripts*, which presented his humanist concept of communism – where the idea of the working man crushed under the lopsided weight of capitalism was traded for a level-pegged society where the people excelled as one. The paper itself wasn't published until after his death in the 1930s, but the views contained therein were already making Marx a vocal mouthpiece in debates and rallies across Paris. Propaganda circulated by Marx's opponents was quick to paint him as an anarchist, but Marx was anything but – he desired social stability more than anything else, not a revolt that would end in bloodshed.

Marx's affiliation with extreme left wing ideals proved a concept too far for the aristocracy, and, under request from the Prussian royalty, the French government forced Marx out of France. He resettled with his wife in Brussels, where they lived for the next two years. However, his forced exile from his new home only served to make Marx even more of a firebrand for change, authoring both *The German Ideology* (1846) and *The Poverty Of Philosophy* (1847) in quick succession.

Both documents were actually commentaries on the state of the current political sphere, but there was a problem: in order to gain entrance to Belgium, Marx promised not to print any more inflammatory literature. He was now forced to hide his work in plain sight, but his influence was still felt across the continent.

The impact that Marx was making with fellow compatriot Engels would be transformed yet again with the publication of one of the most powerful political pamphlets in history: *The Communist Manifesto*. The manifesto itself was both a vitriolic call to arms and a philosophical study that analysed the modern class struggle in true Marxist style. But its ideas were clear: the bourgeoisie were poisoning society and could no longer be tolerated. "[The bourgeoisie] is unfit to rule because it is incompetent to assure an existence to its slave within his slavery, because it cannot help letting him sink into such a state, that it has to feed him, instead of being fed by him," it reads.

"Society can no longer live under this bourgeoisie, in other words, its existence is no longer compatible with society." For Marx and Engels, the manifesto represented a desire to install the lifeblood of communism: equality among all men. "The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win." Marx was a man obsessed with the importance of economics, and such thinking shaped the way communism would function in the Soviet Union decades later.

In the same year, Europe was engulfed in a series of political upheavals and riots known as the Revolutions of 1848, leading to a second republic being established in France. Was Marx's now considerable political influence one of the causes for such a raft of revolts? In reality, it seems unlikely. The tensions that led to the 1848 revolutions had been building for decades, and Marx had long marked himself out as a stark opponent of violent reform.

Defining moment

'The Communist Manifesto' makes waves

While Marx had often contributed to a number of pamphlets in the years prior, *The Communist Manifesto* represented the first true full body of work in his name alongside Friedrich Engels. As expected, it was a controversial and inflammatory document, one that took apart the modern state of capitalism and revealed how it was perpetuating the class struggle.

1848



Marx represented one of socialism's most outspoken figures, and it saw him harassed and driven into exile multiple times



Throughout his adult life, Marx remained a devoted husband and father. Sadly, only three of his seven children survived to adulthood



The death of his wife and one his daughters clouded the last years of Marx's life, two factors that no doubt worsened his physical health

Defining moment

'Das Kapital' published

Das Kapital or *Capital: Critique Of Political Economy as it was known in English*, would form Marx's second and most influential body of work, after *The Communist Manifesto*, and represented a deeper theoretical approach to the class divisions of capitalist nations. As an economist, much of Marx's arguments followed a model that exposed the capitalist mode of production and economic effects that it created.

1867

"Marx was a radical, but he was also a humanist, and he had no desire for bloodshed in the name of socialism"

Despite his pacifism, the Belgian government still singled Marx out as a political undesirable and he was forced to flee with his wife and children yet again, eventually settling in London, England. However, that didn't mean he was any less politically active – in fact, from an impoverished flat in Soho, Marx managed to diffuse a divide in the Communist League that threatened to cause an uprising of violence that would attempt to force the aristocracy into co-operation. His desire was to effect a wave of change through the study of economics and social structure – Marx was a radical, but he was also a humanist, and he had no desire for bloodshed in the name of socialism.

Now living in near abject poverty with his daughters and wife in Soho, Marx refused to abandon the principles that had carried him this far. It was during this period, while still looking after the League and writing regular columns for the *New York Tribune* and *The Washington Post*, Marx began working on his largest and most significant work to date – *Das Kapital*. Planned as a three-volume analysis of the economic and social failings of capitalism, *Das Kapital* became Marx's epitaph in 1867 and he continued to work on the second and third volumes of this literary leviathan throughout the rest of his life.



Das Kapital became Marx's calling card, a deep and merciless deconstruction of capitalism and its economic inconsistencies

Marx continued to represent the humanist side of communism until the last decade of his life, during which time he became less active as his health began to fail rapidly; the deaths of his wife in 1881 and their eldest daughter Jenny Caroline in 1883 only contributed to his worsening health. By the time of his death in 1895, Marx had become a legend in his own lifetime, a radical who inspired change yet shunned violence. His works would form the bedrock of communism, and while he didn't live to see his work truly realised, that radical heart would live on in the many socialist nations that would rise (and fall) in his wake.

A radical thinker and unapologetically outspoken activist working to expose the class struggle between the upper and lower classes, Marx laid the intellectual groundwork for modern socialism.

Was Karl Marx a hero or a villain? Let us know what you think

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MY BIG FAT ANCIENT GREEK WEDDING

Words by Catherine Curzon

History's traditions were far from a fairy tale, as you'll discover with these 11 BIZARRE BIG DAY RITUALS

As *Game Of Thrones* taught us, a Dothraki wedding without at least three deaths is considered a dull affair, but history's real-life rituals give the television show a run for its money. From shaven heads to brides pelted with fish guts – and even disembowelled pigs foretelling the future – these weird wedding rituals were enough to make even the most fearsome bridezilla swear off matchmaking for life. Read on to discover some of the strangest customs through the ages.



Mesopotamian brides were sold to the highest bidder at Babylonian marriage markets

1 Marriage markets in Mesopotamia, 2220 BCE

The young women of ancient Mesopotamia were offered up to their prospective husband in the marital equivalent of a cattle market. At an annual event in each village, eligible young ladies were herded together and sold off as brides in order of beauty. The most attractive were offered for sale first and were betrothed to the richest bidders, while those considered less attractive were bought by commoners for a bargain price. The money received was paid directly to the father of the bride and the auction was viewed as a business transaction, with daughters a valued and highly saleable commodity.

Even those who weren't sold at auction were still exchanged for money by their father, and if no contract was drawn up between the two families concerned, the marriage was not considered legal. The sale or contract was only the first stage in the process, with the satisfactory exchange of cash being followed by a celebratory feast.

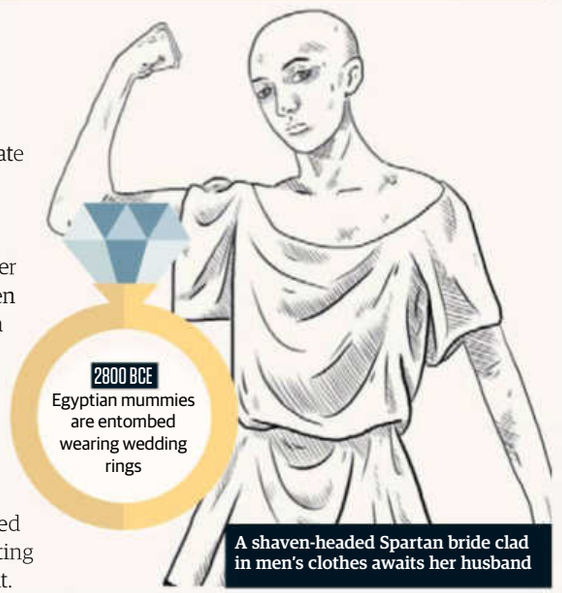
Then, inevitably, the newlyweds stole away to consummate their marriage. In a final eyebrow-raising twist, if the husband discovered that his new wife was not a virgin or the couple failed to conceive, the bride could be returned to her father as faulty goods and he was legally bound to offer a full refund.

2 Bald brides of Sparta, 500 BCE

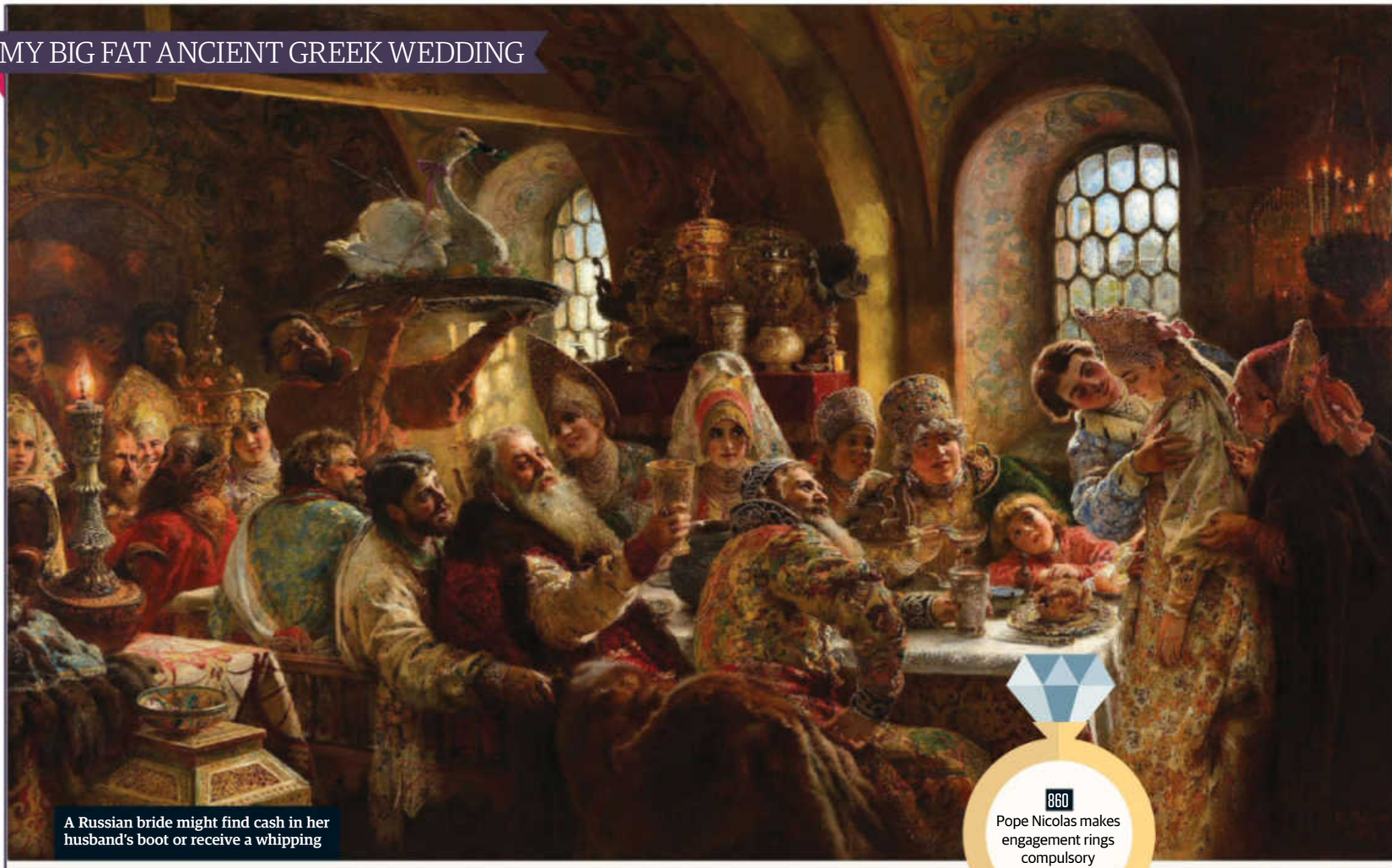
Spartan culture has never been renowned for its chivalry and romanticism, and when it came to wedding ceremonies, things were no different. Becoming a Spartan bride was a rather masculine affair, beginning on the wedding day with the ritual of shaving her head. Once she became a wife, a Spartan woman would never be allowed to grow her hair long again; somewhat ironically, her warrior husband was expected to grow his own tresses as long as possible.

The newly bald bride then changed out of her clothes and into a man's cloak and sandals, completing the illusion of masculinity. The young lady was then taken to a darkened room where she was left alone, laying on a pallet to await the arrival of her new husband. Although known as "marriage by capture", this wasn't a literal carrying off, but a capture of a very different sort. At nightfall, the husband's duty was to consummate the marriage, "capturing" his new wife and claiming her as his own.

Once the deed was done, he returned to his barracks once more and the bride got on with her daily business until bedtime rolled around. When night fell, she might see her husband again for a repeat of their moonlit liaison, and so it went on night after night, week after week. In fact, Greek historian Plutarch even claimed that some Spartan couples became parents before they managed to see one another by daylight. Whether or not that was an exaggeration, we can't be sure, but Spartan brides and grooms lived separate lives when the sun came up, only meeting under the cover of darkness for a stolen moment.



A shaven-headed Spartan bride clad in men's clothes awaits her husband



A Russian bride might find cash in her husband's boot or receive a whipping

860
Pope Nicolas makes engagement rings compulsory

3 Russian brides whipped, 19th century

Russian brides as recently as the 1800s faced a painful challenge on their wedding night. With the ceremony and festivities out of the way, the couple retired to their bedroom, where the groom revealed that he had hidden money in one boot and a whip in the other. Kneeling to remove her husband's boots one at a time, if the bride was lucky enough to find the money first, then it was hers to keep. However, if she found the whip, then her payment was a lashing.

Traditionally the whip was a gift given by the bride's father to her new husband on the day. It symbolised that she was now to obey her husband's authority, just as she had obeyed her father before becoming a wife.



Bridal kidnappings also occured in Bavaria, Germany, as depicted here

2250 BCE
A Mesopotamian marriage ceremony is recorded

4 Welsh kidnappings, 19th century

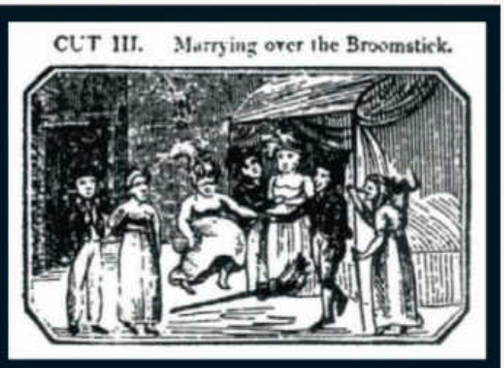
In Wales in the 1800s, it wasn't uncommon to see an excitable gaggle of groomsmen charging furiously after a bridal party. The fun began with the kidnapping of the bride by her family on the morning of the wedding. The groom's job was to rescue his betrothed, avoiding the obstacles and traps laid by her friends. The good-natured chase went on until everyone made it to the church, at which point the groom received his reward – his bride's hand in marriage.



To prepare them for marriage, Scottish brides were pelted with rubbish

5 Blackening the bride in Scotland, 19th century

Marriage isn't all a bed of roses, and what better way to prepare the bride for the challenges to come than by parading her around town as people hurl rubbish? In the 19th century, a ritual emerged in which members of the community were invited to pelt the hapless bride on the eve of her wedding with the most disgusting things they could find. From manure and fish guts to eggs and tar, the woman was expected to endure it all. Finally, feathers were stuck to her filthy body before she was washed by her attendants. In some cases grooms were also blackened, with the added humiliation of being stripped to the waist before it began. If they could emerge from the blackening with smile and spirit intact, then they were ready to take whatever married life could throw at them.



6 Over the English Brush, 16th century

Before the Marriage Act of 1753 set out the legal requirements for a marriage to be recognised as legitimate, getting hitched in England was basically a matter of telling people you were married. Some poorer couples marked their union by holding hands and jumping over a broom that was being held by two friends, symbolising the start of their new life together.



Chinese wedding parties warded off evil spirits by making as much noise as possible

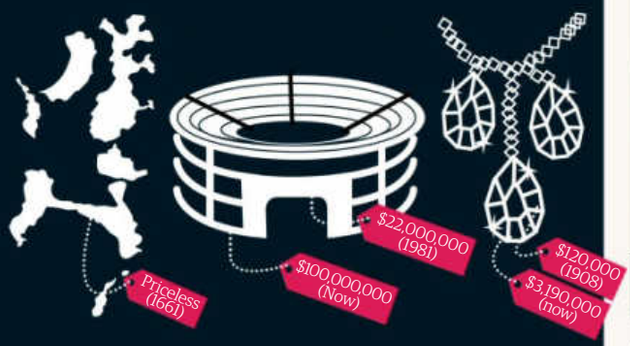
1300
The English word 'marriage' is first recorded in use

7 Chasing away evil spirits, 200 BCE

In common with many other cultures, the ancient Chinese believed that evil spirits followed the wedding procession and could plague a married couple long past the big day. With these naughty ghosts always looking to make mischief, the wedding party had to find a way to chase them off. Happily, evil spirits don't have much tolerance for noise, so the wedding procession was accompanied by as much racket as the guests could possibly make. Firecrackers were ignited, drums beaten and bands played, while the wedding party shouted, sang and whooped for joy, chasing away evil.

TOP THREE EXPENSIVE GIFTS

History has seen some eye-wateringly pricey tokens change hands as wedding gifts



TANGIERS AND THE SEVEN ISLANDS OF BOMBAY
CHARLES II AND CATHERINE OF BRAGANZA
The lucky king received Mumbai, Tangiers and a fortune in cash.

A STADIUM
SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN OF ABU DHABI AND PRINCESS SALAMA
20,000 guests celebrated in style in a purpose-built stadium.

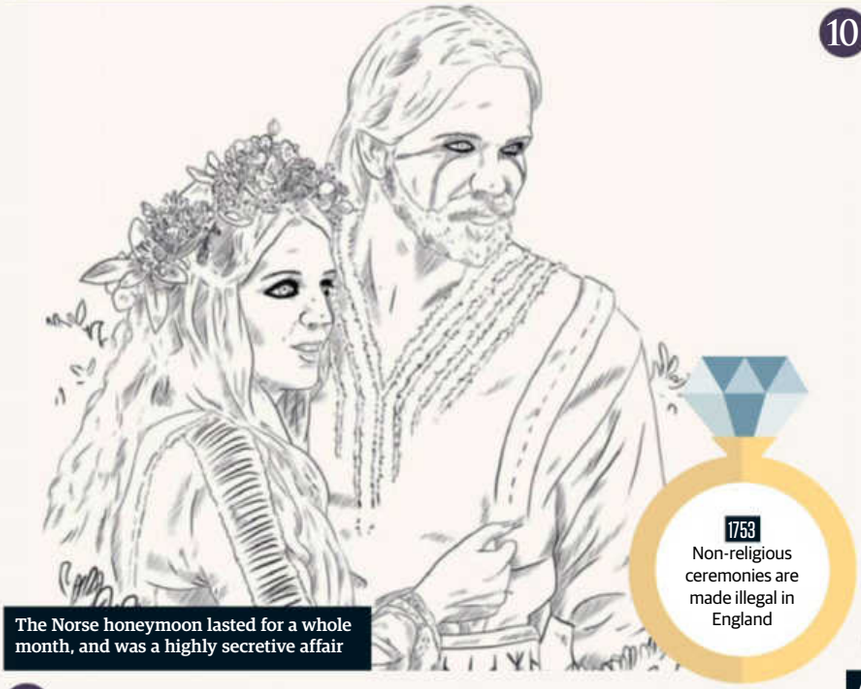
THE STAR OF THE EAST
EVALYN WALSH MCLEAN AND EDWARD BEALE
The newlywed tycoon's daughter Evalyn received this stunning pear-shaped diamond.



Mayan brides and grooms spent the day before their wedding in sweat lodges

8 Sweating out Mayan sin, 200

It's perfectly normal now for excited brides to treat themselves and their friends to a pampering spa experience in preparation for their big day, but the tradition might not be as new as you think. The Mayans took it one step further and both bride and groom spent the day before the wedding in separate sweat lodges, known as temazcalli, sweating out their sins in steaming temperatures.



The Norse honeymoon lasted for a whole month, and was a highly secretive affair

1753
Non-religious ceremonies are made illegal in England

9 The hidden Norse, 900

Ancient Norse couples valued a bit of alone time after they'd celebrated their wedding, spending a month of solitude to get to know each other. Bride and groom disappeared into hiding for 30 days, or a whole moon cycle, and one member of their family was entrusted with their location. That person was charged with bringing honey wine to the couple every day to aid fertility and encourage conception. This ancient Norse tradition, steeped as it was in honey wine, is said to be the origin of the modern concept of the honeymoon.

10 Roman omens, 100 CE



An auspex read the fate of a couple in the bowels of a dead pig

In Ancient Rome, once the bride and groom had settled on one another and convinced their families they were a good match, they had one more challenge to face. Dressed in their wedding finery, the couple went to visit the auspex, a Roman whose job it was to interpret omens. They would conduct the wedding ceremony and had the ultimate power to veto it, too. Before the union could be declared binding and the marriage contracts be exchanged, the auspex sacrificed a pig - or occasionally a ewe or an ox - and disembowelled it amid great ceremony. The assembled guests and wedding party waited with bated breath as the auspex inspected and interpreted the pig's intestines, literally reading the future in the bowels of the animal. If the entrails were favourable, then it augured well for the wedding. The ceremony could proceed as planned and the celebrations would commence, culminating in the groom carrying his bride over the threshold into the marital home. If, however, the auspex declared the bowels unfavourable, then the wedding was off.

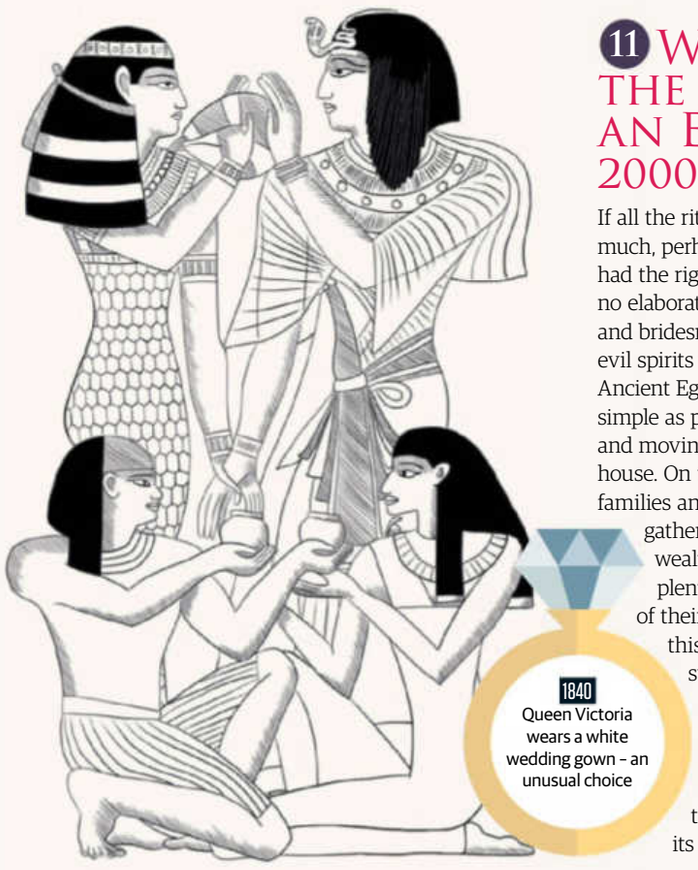


Guinevere is said to have given King Arthur 100 knights and the Round Table as a dowry

THE COST OF LOVE

Traditionally, the wedding day was about money as well as matrimony

When brokering a marriage, it was often common practice for the bride's family to enhance the deal with a hefty dowry. This meant that, once the wedding took place, the groom could look forward not only to taking a wife but also to receiving a large sum in cash, goods or territory. The first written record of a dowry being paid can be found in documents from 3000 BCE, and in some cultures, the tradition continues to this very day. Popular legend has it that Queen Guinevere's dowry upon her marriage to King Arthur was 100 knights and the famed Round Table that graced Camelot. Meanwhile, during the French Revolution, the governments of Austria and France couldn't agree on whether Marie Antoinette's enormous dowry of 200,000 crowns had ever actually been paid, leading to some unseemly arguments over the authenticity of the paperwork.



11 Walk (down the aisle) like an Egyptian, 2000 BCE

If all the rites and rituals sound a bit much, perhaps the Ancient Egyptians had the right idea. For them, there was no elaborate ceremony, no best man and bridesmaids, pricey jewels or even evil spirits waiting to be thwarted. In Ancient Egypt, getting married was as simple as packing up your belongings and moving them into your beloved's house. On the night of the move, the families and friends of the couple would gather to throw a party and, for wealthy couples, there would be plenty of gifts to mark the start of their new life together. Of course, this meant that unwanted suitors could just appear on anyone's doorstep clutching their worldly belongings and declare themselves married, so this simple way of doing things certainly wasn't without its drawbacks.

1840
Queen Victoria wears a white wedding gown – an unusual choice

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

Today's time-honoured traditions have some bizarre origins

BRIDESMAIDS
ANCIENT ROME, 100 CE
The Romans needed plenty of ways to confuse evil spirits, and with the bride's friends dressed in identical clothes to her, the demons would find it more difficult to create mayhem.

THROWING THE GARTER
MEDIEVAL ENGLAND, 800
Bachelors used force to try to steal the bride's lucky garter. Tired of being jumped on, brides started throwing the garter or bouquet as a means of distracting the gents.

CARRYING OVER THE THRESHOLD
ANCIENT ROME, 100 CE
Carrying the bride not only preserved the appearance of modesty on her part, but also thwarted spirits who were hoping to hitch a ride into the marital home on her bare feet.

STAG NIGHTS
ANCIENT SPARTA, 500 BCE
The Spartans loved a rowdy celebration, and would toast the groom's last night as a bachelor by putting on an evening filled with drinking and partying.

BRIDE STANDING ON THE LEFT
ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND, 900
Should anyone accost the bride, the best man was charged with saving the day. If he failed, the groom's right hand was free to go for his sword and help out.

THE RING FINGER
ANCIENT GREECE, 400 BCE
The Greeks believed that a vein in the third finger of the left hand was connected to the heart, so placed the ring there as a mark of love.

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Bluffer's Guide CHINA, 4 JUNE 1989

Tiananmen Square Massacre

Timeline

1988



China relaxes state controls of prices to help grow the economy. Corruption and profiteering sends inflation soaring to 26 per cent by October.

15 APRIL 1989



Free market reformer and Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang dies of a heart attack. Students gather in Tiananmen Square to express sympathy.

26 APRIL 1989



The *People's Daily* newspaper publishes a piece that is critical of the students. Rather than forcing them to back down, this only antagonises them further.

13 MAY 1989



Thousands of students begin hunger strikes in Tiananmen Square to embarrass the authorities prior to the upcoming state visit of the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

What was it?

The Tiananmen Square Massacre was the brutal climax to three months of protests and demonstrations in China in 1989. The protests spread to 400 cities across the country and were led by university students who were concerned about the soaring inflation rate, restrictions on political participation and the challenges faced by graduates as China transitioned to a free-market economy.

The Chinese political elite were divided in their reaction. General Secretary Zhao Ziyang argued for peaceful dialogue with the protesters, but Premier Li Peng and Chairman Deng Xiaoping (the paramount leader of China) saw the unrest as a direct challenge to the government and pressed for a swift end by whatever means necessary.

On 20 May 1989, martial law was declared and 30 divisions of the army were mobilised around the country in an effort to restore order. In the late evening of 3 June, tanks and 10,000 armed troops advanced on Tiananmen Square. They opened fire without warning. Protesters were shot in the back as they fled; others were crushed under the wheels of military vehicles.

What were the consequences?

China's recent political liberalisation was abandoned. More than 1,600 students and workers were arrested and tried. Wang Dan, one of the student leaders, spent seven years in prison. Reformers within the Chinese Communist Party were expelled, demoted or placed under house arrest. The Chinese government continued with economic reforms, but rolled back earlier measures that had begun to separate the party from the government.

Today, any discussion of the Tiananmen Square protests is still banned in China. Films, books, newspapers and even whole publishing companies have been suppressed and shut down for breaking this rule. Chinese authorities have also attempted to censor the internet when it comes to the protests, but with less success. Search terms such as "June 4" are blocked, but increasingly, social media has turned to more oblique code names.

Who was involved?



Premier Li Peng
1928-present
An opponent of economic reforms, Li Peng was also responsible for ordering martial law to end the Tiananmen protests.



Zhao Ziyang
1919-2005
The general secretary of the Communist Party argued for peaceful dialogue. He was placed under house arrest for 15 years.



Unknown Protestor
Unknown
The morning after the massacre, one young man blocked the advance of a column of tanks. His identity is still a mystery.

Did you know?

The Chinese government's official death toll for the massacre is 241 but many independent estimates put it closer to 1,000

20 MAY 1989



The Chinese government declares martial law. 30 army divisions are mobilised and between 180,000 and 250,000 troops are sent to Beijing.

3 JUNE 1989



At 10pm, troops open fire without warning. Song Xiaoming, a 32-year-old aerospace technician, is the first confirmed fatality of the night.

© Rex Features



PETRA

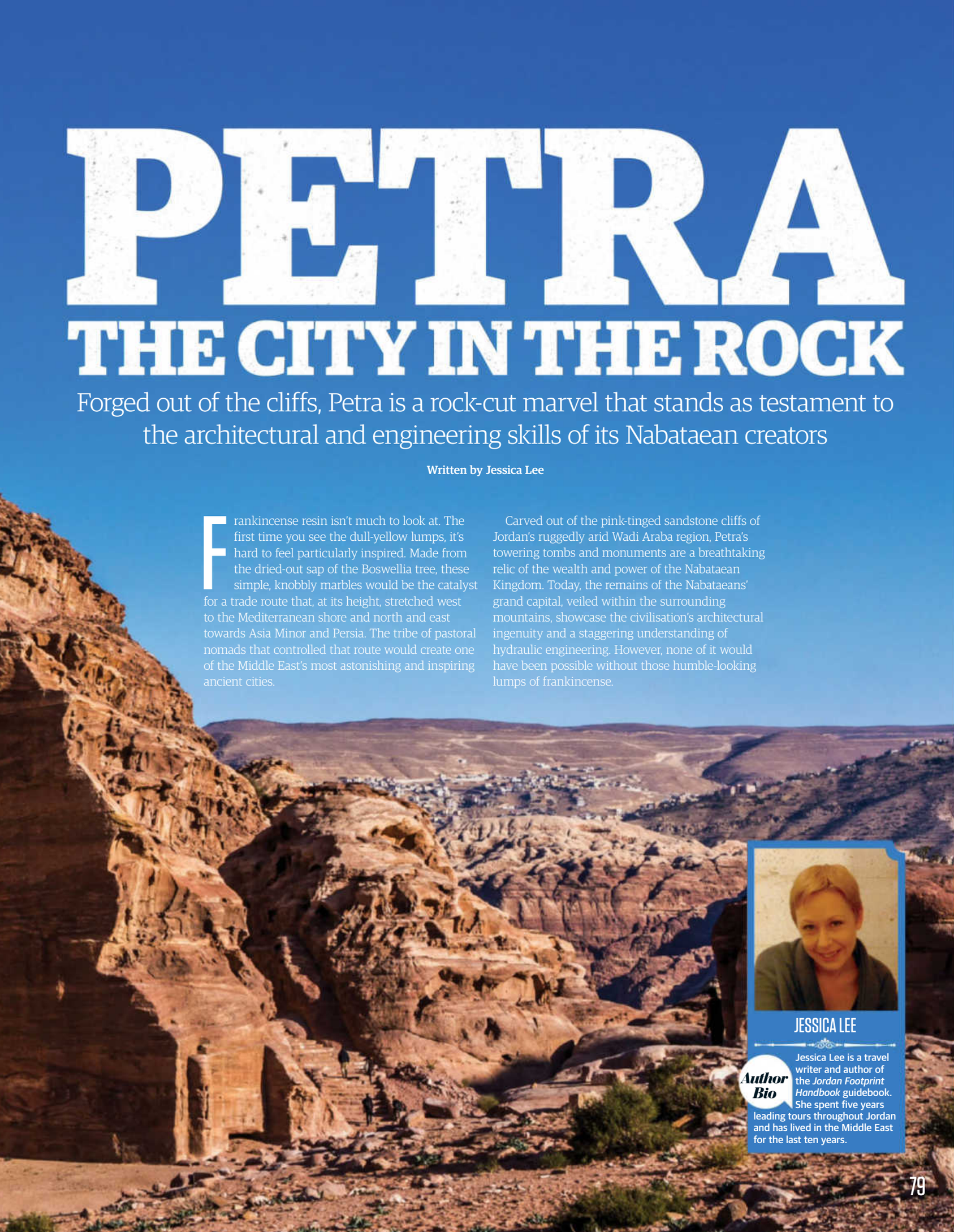
THE CITY IN THE ROCK

Forged out of the cliffs, Petra is a rock-cut marvel that stands as testament to the architectural and engineering skills of its Nabataean creators

Written by Jessica Lee

Frankincense resin isn't much to look at. The first time you see the dull-yellow lumps, it's hard to feel particularly inspired. Made from the dried-out sap of the Boswellia tree, these simple, knobbly marbles would be the catalyst for a trade route that, at its height, stretched west to the Mediterranean shore and north and east towards Asia Minor and Persia. The tribe of pastoral nomads that controlled that route would create one of the Middle East's most astonishing and inspiring ancient cities.

Carved out of the pink-tinged sandstone cliffs of Jordan's ruggedly arid Wadi Araba region, Petra's towering tombs and monuments are a breathtaking relic of the wealth and power of the Nabataean Kingdom. Today, the remains of the Nabataeans' grand capital, veiled within the surrounding mountains, showcase the civilisation's architectural ingenuity and a staggering understanding of hydraulic engineering. However, none of it would have been possible without those humble-looking lumps of frankincense.



JESSICA LEE

Author Bio

Jessica Lee is a travel writer and author of the *Jordan Footprint Handbook* guidebook. She spent five years leading tours throughout Jordan and has lived in the Middle East for the last ten years.

Petra: The city in the rock

Incense was a big business in antiquity. All of the Mediterranean and Near East empires coveted aromatics, such as frankincense and myrrh, for their religious rituals as well as for medicinal purposes. The Hittites, Egyptians, Phoenicians, Assyrians, Greeks and later Romans all believed these incenses to be essential elements in their worship. The only problem was that these precious substances were only found in a few select geographical areas.

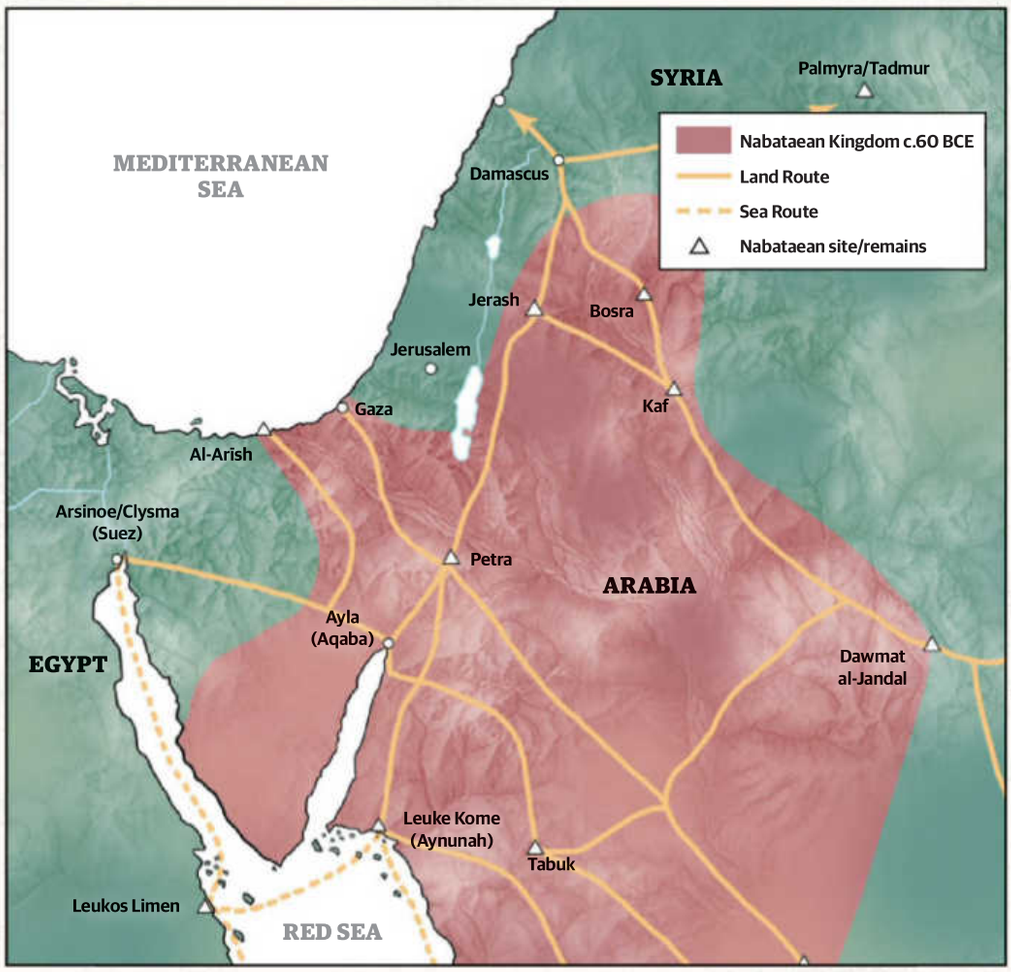
Frankincense and myrrh trees are endemic to the southern region of the Arabian Peninsula (today's Oman and Yemen). Trade in their resins was probably originally established by the Yemeni Minaean tribe, who utilised middlemen to help on the trade route once it passed beyond their area. In northern Arabia, those middlemen were a tribe of wandering desert herders called the Nabataeans, whose dabbling with the aromatics trade was beginning to make them very wealthy.

By the 2nd century BCE, those same middlemen started to take over the entire incense route, carving out a niche for themselves as trade controllers for the region. From then on, the aromatics from Arabia, as well as sought-after spices from as far away as India, would only flow west under their command. The riches and power this brought the Nabataeans meant a need for more centralised organisation and an end to nomadic life. Petra was to be the great jewel of a capital at their kingdom's central core.

It's not known exactly when the Nabataeans first moved into the canyons and valleys of southern Jordan (the Biblical land of Edom) but archaeological evidence shows that they had utilised this area since at least the 3rd century BCE. Simple Nabataean building remains – most likely storage buildings that would have been erected near their nomad tents – dating from this time have been unearthed in Petra. By the 2nd century BCE though, as the Nabataeans organised themselves from various collectives within the tribe to be ruled over by one king, this easily defendable spot they'd previously used as a camp began to be used as their power base.

For a fiercely independent people, Petra's near impregnability would have made it an attractive site. Already in 312 BCE they had repelled attacks on their area by the army of Macedonian General Antigonus I Monophthalmus (commonly known as Antigonus the One-Eyed) and stymied further encroachment by bribing would-be conquerors with diplomatic gifts. They chose their site so well, in fact, that after their eventual demise, the grand city of Petra would fade from history, forgotten by all but the local tribes of the area. The Crusaders of the 12th century knew of it, even building two fortresses on mountain summits within the Petra area, however it wasn't until the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt passed through the area in 1812 with a local guide who knew the way that Petra was reintroduced to the Western world.

Burckhardt was awed by the towering monuments cut from the rock when he entered



"For a fiercely independent people, Petra's near impregnability would have made it an attractive site"

Petra. It's the same emotion that visitors experience today. The Siq, a narrow ravine pinned between dramatically soaring rock walls up to 180 metres high, guides visitors into a vast area of furrowed wadis (valleys) between rugged jebels (mountains). The 39.6-metre-high Al-Khazneh (the Treasury) looms over the main entrance into the city from the Siq, while up a series of processional staircases cut into the mountainside of Jebel ed-Deir is the colossal 45-metre-high façade of Ed-Deir (the Monastery), which dwarfs all who gaze up at it. Between these two most famed and photographed monuments is the wide main wadi with numerous tomb façades studding the cliff faces and a grand colonnaded street, lined with temple ruins, that was once Petra's city centre.

The stonemasons carved Petra's oversized monuments into the high cliffs without the use of any specialised technology. Luckily for us, a number of unfinished façades within Petra have allowed archaeologists to glean a clear idea of their building method. It is known that the Nabataeans began by carving at the highest point of the building and then worked downwards towards the ground, with the workers probably using either scaffolding or rope to climb up to work at the higher levels. Using just pick axes and chisels, the craggy rock face was first smoothed out to create a flat surface before the building's design was outlined upon the rock. Originally, the detailed carving work of the façades may have been carried out by master stonemasons brought in from cities such as Alexandria in Egypt, who went on to teach local artisans their craft. When the decoration was finished, the cubic interior chambers were then hollowed out from the cliff.

An economy fed by commerce imbued the Nabataeans with a distinctly cosmopolitan outlook. Exposed to the lifestyles and cultures of many peoples and empires through their travels and trade, these were a people who looked outward and were unafraid of new experiences and influences. This natural confidence developed into a talent for cherry picking the best bits of other cultures and adapting and fusing it to suit their needs. Petra's architecture is an expression of their eclectic style.

View of Al-Khazneh (the Treasury), set into its high cliff face



The Siq's water channels were part of the Nabataeans' vast hydraulic engineering works

Nabataean architecture in its purest stylistic form is quite austere and angular. No figurative images are displayed and there are little in the way of ornate flourishes. Earlier dated tombs often use an Assyrian crow-step (a simple staircase design) on their upper level, with plain columns siding a mammoth doorway decorated only with a Doric frieze. Gods are represented in rock reliefs by plain stone blocks or simple, and often otherwise unadorned, rectangular carvings known as betyls ('house of god'). However, later buildings became more ornate.

Petra's famous Al-Khazneh has a distinctly Hellenistic design and mixes iconography and symbolism from Egypt, Rome and Greece. Petra's theatre is built in classic Roman style but adjusted accordingly to be suitable for the city's unique rocky location – being carved out of the bottom of a cliff. This fluidity and assimilation of different cultural influences is best seen in how the Nabataean pantheon of gods slowly evolved, changed and was represented.

While the Nabataeans continued to honour their traditional Arabian gods, they had no problem

merging their own deities with those from neighbouring cultures. In the Nabataean pantheon, the overall god was Dushara, who, with goddesses al-Uzza and Allat, reigned over a series of lesser deities. Representations of foreign Greek, Roman, Phoenician, Egyptian and Syrian gods, particularly Aphrodite, Osiris, Isis, Zeus, Dionysus, Atargatis and Tyre, slowly entered the mix though. The central bas relief on Al-Khazneh's façade depicts two Amazonians either side of a goddess thought to be either the Roman Tyche or Egyptian Isis. Both foreign goddesses would have been identified with their traditional goddess al-Uzza, and the Nabataeans seem to have had no problem featuring these deities figuratively, unlike their original Arabian gods.

It is in their engineering ability, though, that the Nabataeans' talent for adaptation truly shines. As desert nomads, living in one of the world's harshest environments, they fully understood the great importance of water to thrive, and in Petra, they utilised their skills to its greatest achievement. Petra was prone to dangerous flash flooding during the winter months with the flood torrents flowing down Wadi Musa (the valley just outside of the city area), smashing through the Siq and down into the valley basin of the main city; a seasonal disaster that could cause serious damage and loss of life in the city. In the 1st century BCE, Nabataean engineers diverted this water into the side canyon of Wadi Muthlim by building a dam structure just outside the entry to the Siq. To demonstrate how effective these ancient engineers were with this method, today, modern dam structures built in the 1990s have been constructed over the original building works.

Nabataean engineers also harnessed the water of the nearby springs of Ain Musa and Ain Braq for everyday use, creating a vast network of water channels from the springs that flowed through the countryside into the city that could supply all of Petra's daily and agricultural needs. Evidence of these vast hydraulic engineering works can still be seen in the surviving terracotta water pipes that run along the walls of the Siq.

Despite all these remaining building works that show how Petra managed to function and thrive, today it can be difficult for visitors to Petra to evoke a sense of a once-bustling city. Walking between Petra's gigantic tomb façades can seem more like discovering a vast ancient necropolis rather than a lived-in capital. Petra, though, was very much a busy hub of commerce. The trouble is that the residential quarters, built on a much more modest scale than its megalithic tombs, have long since crumbled away. The small amount of remains of residential houses that have been excavated so far (on the Zantur slope behind the city centre ruins) are also easily missed by visitors in favour of those awe-inspiring cliff-side tombs.

Petra's city centre is the best area to imagine what the city would have once looked like. Constructed at some stage in the early-1st century when the Nabataean kingdom was at its height, a



The lower tombs
Excavations that begun in 2003 discovered four burial chambers with pediment-style façades six metres below the surface of Al-Khazneh. Findings within the tombs – including bone fragments – allowed archaeologists to date the tombs to the 1st century BCE.

Ground surface level
How did tombs get under the ground below Al-Khazneh? They didn't. When the Nabataean dam finally disintegrated, flash flooding returned to the Petra area. The stone and sand deposited by the torrential waters over centuries gradually built up the ground by six or seven metres to today's level.

The urn
The urn, which crowns the façade, is looking a little worse for wear these days. Convinced it contained treasure, local Bedouin used to take pot shots at it with their rifles, which has resulted in its pockmarked appearance.

Building Al-Khazneh

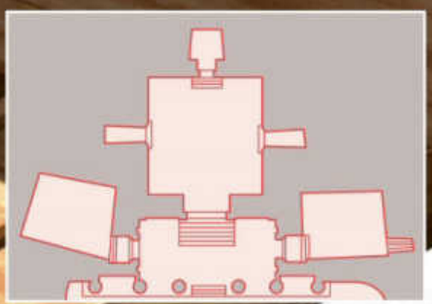
Despite its moniker, Al-Khazneh (meaning 'Treasury') had nothing to do with storing Nabataean riches. Archaeological work in the mid-2000s concluded the building served as a funerary temple. The Treasury's name stems from a wonderful local myth that the building was built by the Egyptian pharaoh as he chased Moses and the Israelites through the land of Edom, and the façade's urn encased his treasure.

Damage to the reliefs
The damage to the figurative carvings on Al-Khazneh was the work of the iconoclasts in the 8th century who, under Caliph Yazid II's orders, destroyed human representations.

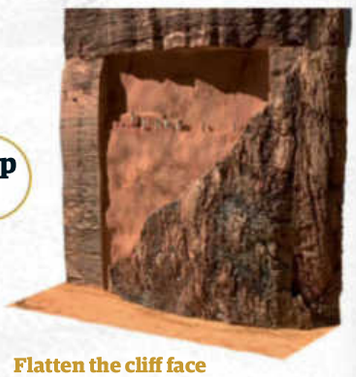
The façade
Al-Khazneh's façade is 39.6 metres high and 28 metres wide. Its classical style utilises Corinthian columns and detailed reliefs depicting lions, gryphons and sculpted figures of deities.

Sandstone
Petra's red-pink sandstone cliffs are rich in iron and manganese minerals. These minerals create Petra's distinctive red-hued rock, streaked with a multiplicity of veins, which vary in colour from yellows through to browns.

Bore holes
A line of bore holes frame each side of Al-Khazneh's façade. Archaeologists surmise that these may have been used for stairs or scaffolding so that the builders could climb up and down from the work platform.



Step 1



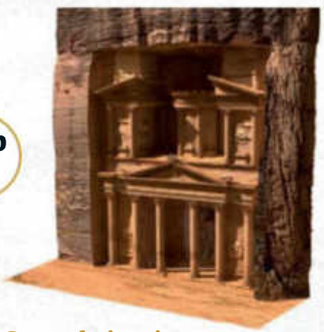
Flatten the cliff face
Starting 39 metres up the cliff, the builders tunnelled straight along the cliff face to create a platform to stand on. Then, using pickaxes, they gradually worked downwards, creating a smooth, flat rock surface they could then work from.

Step 2



Carve the façade
Another wider ledge was cut from which to carve downwards to create the decorative façade. There was no margin for error. Builders had to ensure that the weight of the upper section did not become too heavy for the bottom, causing it to collapse.

Step 3



Create the interior
The same top-down method was used to create the entrance portico behind the columns, and the inner chambers. A tunnel was cut into the cliff before being widened into the portico, and then further tunnels created, which became chambers.

Step 4



Remove the waste
Builders removed 6,000 cubic metres of rock from the interior. The resulting rubble created from both carving the façade and hollowing out the interior chambers was cleared away and utilised for building other structures.

Petra: The city in the rock



1. Qasr al-Bint

The 'Palace of the Pharaoh's Daughter' is thought to have served as the city's main temple. Worship of Nabataean deities Dushara and al-Uzza is thought to have been centred here.



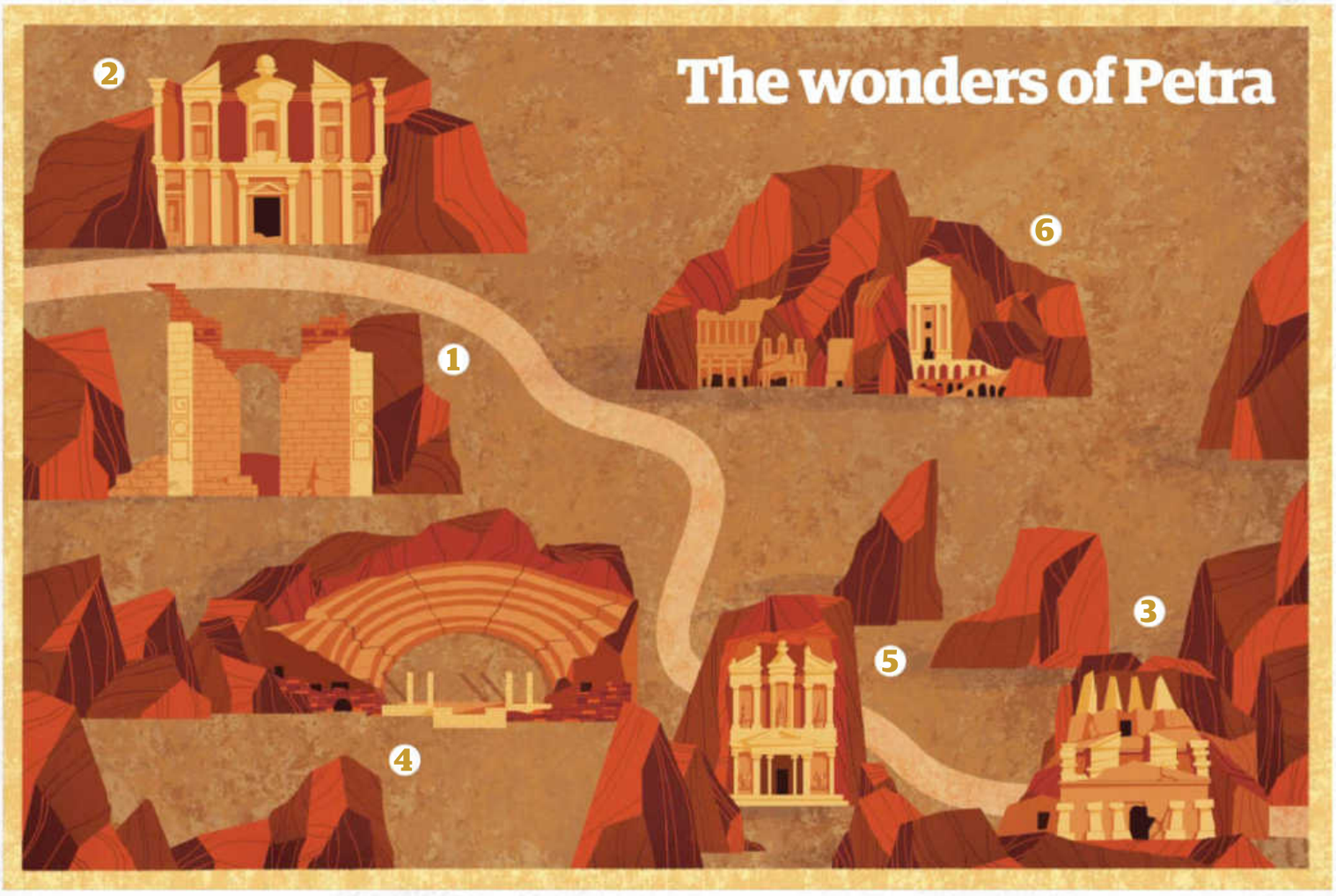
2. Ad-Deir

Petra's largest monument, the 'Monastery' sits on a high plateau of Jebel ad-Deir. It's thought to have served as a temple-cenotaph commemorating king Obodas I.



3. Obelisk tomb

Named for the four obelisks that dominate its façade, the Obelisk tomb sits above the façade of the Bab el Siq Triclinium (a banqueting hall), which is believed to have been carved later.



4. The theatre

The theatre exactly follows Roman design rules but with the Nabataean architectural twist of the entire structure being hollowed out from a sheer rock face.



5. Al-Khazneh

Archaeologists theorise that this was the mortuary temple of either king Aretas III or Aretas IV, built as a place to worship the sovereign as well as being his burial place.



6. Urn tomb

The multi-level Urn Tomb is the first of five façades (known together as the Royal Tombs) that loom over Petra's colonnaded street from a ledge cut into Jebel al-Khubta.



grand 18-metre-wide colonnaded street, lined with public and civic buildings, was constructed in the wadi's basin at Petra's core. This would have been the downtown area of the city. Along this road are three of Petra's major public buildings. The Qasr al-Bint (theorised by most archaeologists to have probably functioned as the city's main temple), the later constructed Temple of the Winged Lion and the vast terraced structure known as the Great Temple, which, quite probably, despite its modern name, functioned as an administrative centre rather than a place of worship.

From the end of the colonnaded street, a trail threads its way up a series of processional staircases to a high plateau upon Jebel ed-Deir where the enormous façade of Ad-Deir (the Monastery) sits carved into a cliff. Petra's largest monument, Ad-Deir, has a name – like Al-Khazneh and the Great Temple – that is something of a misnomer. Most experts theorise that its original function was as a cenotaph-temple (built in memorial to one of Petra's sovereigns). Its modern name stems from the series of crosses, dating from Petra's Byzantine era, found carved into the walls of the interior chamber when the building seems to have been adapted to function as a place of Christian worship.



Petra's colonnaded street in the central city ruins, with the Qasr al-Bint in the background

Petra sat right at the core of the Nabataean kingdom as the main centre along the incense route for camel caravans coming in from or heading out to the desert. However, control of the entire trail's tentacles meant that smaller Nabataean fixed settlements and caravan stations can be found scattered all along the route. On the Arabian Peninsula (in modern-day Saudi Arabia), the ruins of Hegra (now known as Mada'in Saleh) contain 131 Nabataean tomb façades carved into the cliff face. This would have been an important resting point along the trail through the Hejaz region. In Israel's Negev Desert, the ruins of Nabataean towns Haluza, Mamshit, Avdat and Shivta linked Petra to its Mediterranean port at Gaza. Nabataean inscriptions and ruins have been found in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, and in the town of Bosra, in southern Syria, which in the late-1st century became the Nabataeans second capital, there are substantial remains.

This control, along with a powerful centralised organisation and diplomatic means, meant the Nabataeans managed to stave off the empire builders who were surrounding them for an impressively long time. Their autonomy was finally ended in 106 when Trajan's Roman army conquered Petra, and the Nabataean kingdom as a whole was absorbed into Rome's province of Arabia. Despite the loss of independence, trading didn't cease. Petra remained an important commercial centre right up to the 3rd century, by then a flourishing bishopric with a large Christian population. It was the region's many earthquakes that finally spelled doom for the city. After two violent ones in 363 and 419, and then another in 551, much of the city was deserted and left to the rubble. With the city's demise, the Nabataeans, who had once played such a dominant role in the region, seemed also to vanish.

When Johann Ludwig Burckhardt first entered the city, he encountered the Bdoul tribe, who lived amid the ruins. This tribe lived in caves surrounding the monuments and in the tomb chambers themselves right up until the mid-1980s when they were finally moved by the government into modern housing at a purposely built village settlement near the archaeological site. Some of the Bdoul claim to be the descendants of the Nabataeans, but this theory has never been proven. Unlike Petra's remarkable buildings and colossal façades that have stood the test of time, what happened to the people who built them remains one of the Middle East's enduring mysteries.

"These were a people who looked outward and were unafraid of new experiences and influences"



Petra's main trail – from Al-Khazneh to the colonnaded street – is lined with tomb façades

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REVIEWS

All About History on the books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world

THE FIRST NAZI: ERICH LUDENDORFF

The story of the WWI general who blamed the Jews for Germany's defeat

Authors Will Brownell, Denise Drace-Brownell & Alex Rovt **Publisher** Duckworth Overlook **Price** £20 **Released** Out now

There can surely be nothing left to say about Adolf Hitler, but what about his World War I counterpart? Erich Ludendorff was the German quartermaster general, and together with Paul von Hindenburg, ran the German war effort largely without the involvement of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Ludendorff, perhaps more than anyone else in the German military, was responsible for his nation's successes and eventual defeat. He earned his reputation early on with his victory against the Belgians in the siege of Liège and against the Russians in the battle of Tannenberg. Later, he bankrolled Lenin's revolution in Russia and thereby neutralised the entire Eastern Front – something not even Napoleon had managed.

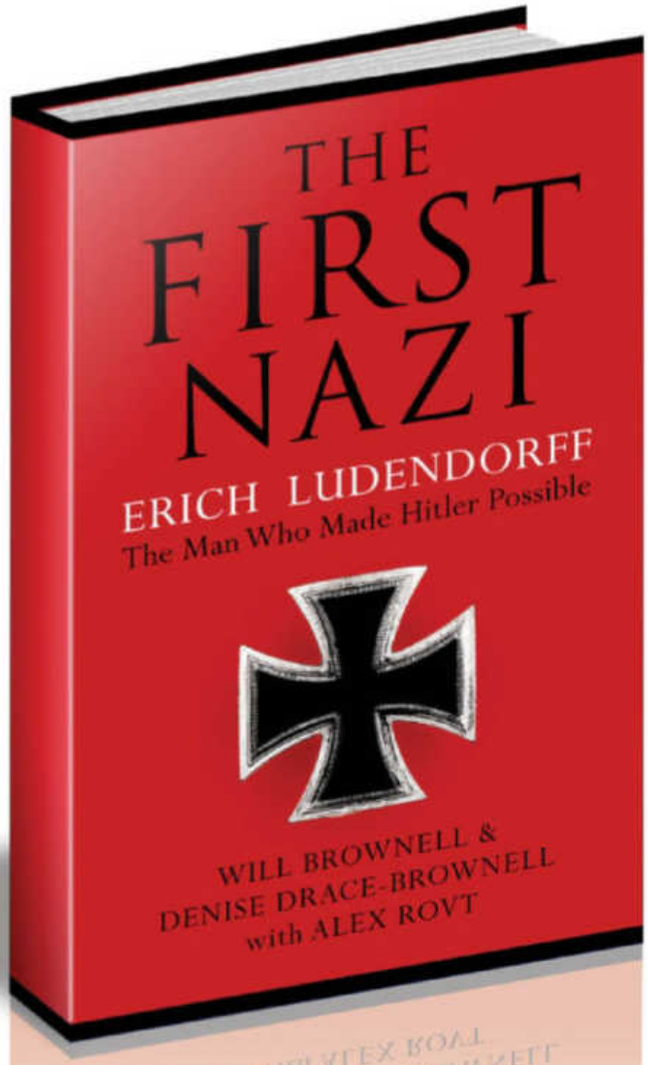
But it's on his mistakes that this biography mainly focuses. Like Napoleon, Ludendorff was far too cavalier with the lives of his troops, and sent hundreds of thousands of young men to their deaths in a series of pointless offensives. *The First Nazi* argues passionately that Ludendorff was a tactical genius but a strategic fool, who waged war without any clear objective in mind.

Ludendorff saw war as the natural state of man, with peace just a temporary interlude before the next conflict. When an enemy did cease hostilities, as the Russians did in 1917, he imposed a merciless peace treaty that granted huge new territories to Germany. Ironically, these new lands required more troops of their own simply to defend and police them, which actually contributed to the failure of his Spring Offensive in Europe.

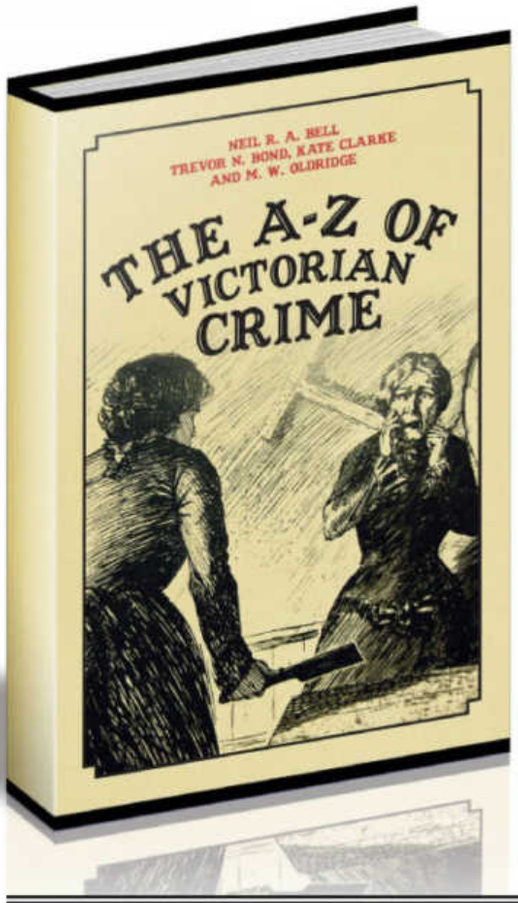
This is a fascinating book that does a very thorough job of showing how the incoherent slaughter of the First World War inevitably paved the way for the second. But the claim that Ludendorff was the first Nazi is squeezed into the last two chapters and it is much less convincing. Ludendorff undoubtedly blamed the German military collapse on treacherous strikes organised by Marxists and Jews at home (the 'Stab in the Back' myth). But besides their anti-Semitism, Hitler and Ludendorff didn't agree on much, or even like each other.

This work posits that Ludendorff, as a war hero, lent credibility to the Nazi party in its early days. But the character portrait he paints leaves the strong impression that this was a marriage of convenience. Ludendorff wanted to wage war on the Vatican, for example, and replace Christianity with the old German gods, like Wotan. Hitler believed "nothing would be more foolish" and ultimately wanted to eliminate religion altogether.

The narrative style is also rather uneven, alternating scholarly sections that detail the precise timeline of events, with luridly dramatised descriptions of the horrors of trench warfare. The book would benefit from proper citations or footnotes, rather than just a list of sources for each chapter, particularly since there are a few typos and mistakes – at one point Brownell mixes up Paul von Hindenburg and Kaiser Wilhelm. Overall though, this is a good overview of one of the most important generals of World War I – and one of the least well known.



"This is a fascinating book that does a very thorough job of showing how the incoherent slaughter of the First World War inevitably paved the way for the second"



THE A-Z OF VICTORIAN CRIME

Terrible tales from the villainous Victorians

Authors M W Oldridge, Neil Bell, Kate Clarke & Trevor Bond
Publisher Amberley **Price** £14.99 **Released** Out now

If you need to know your Fanny Adams from your Eliza Adkins, or your Thomas Simmons from your Thomas Smethurst, then this gas-lit delve into the annals of Victorian wrongdoing is for you. Seasoned readers might approach *The A-Z Of Victorian Crime* with a certain sense of trepidation, steeling themselves for the inevitable appearance of Jack the Ripper, the criminal whose infamy looms large across the world of historical true crime. He features, of course, yet it will come as a pleasant surprise to find he is far from the dominating figure one might expect. In fact, the Ripper is one of a handful of notorious criminals who populate these pages, yet far more fascinating are the less famed cases the authors have dug up from the shadows.

Adhering to a set of self-imposed rules, the four criminal historians who wrote this book examine cases from the courts of Great Britain. Adopting an A-Z approach, it's refreshing to read not only of the criminals but also of their victims, the representatives of law and order who investigated and prosecuted them, and the social background that often influenced, and sometimes undermined, the cases being examined.

Many entries conclude with a suggestion for further reading and the often bite-sized stories make this book ideal for picking up and dipping into when you've has a few minutes to spare, though it is equally rewarding to settle down and immerse oneself in the era for a while. Though some of the cases are gruesome, the authors wisely avoid sensationalising the details. Each entry has obviously been meticulously researched and the sights and sounds of Victorian Britain leap from the page. This is an ideal book for a long autumn evening; once you've made sure that all the doors are locked.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

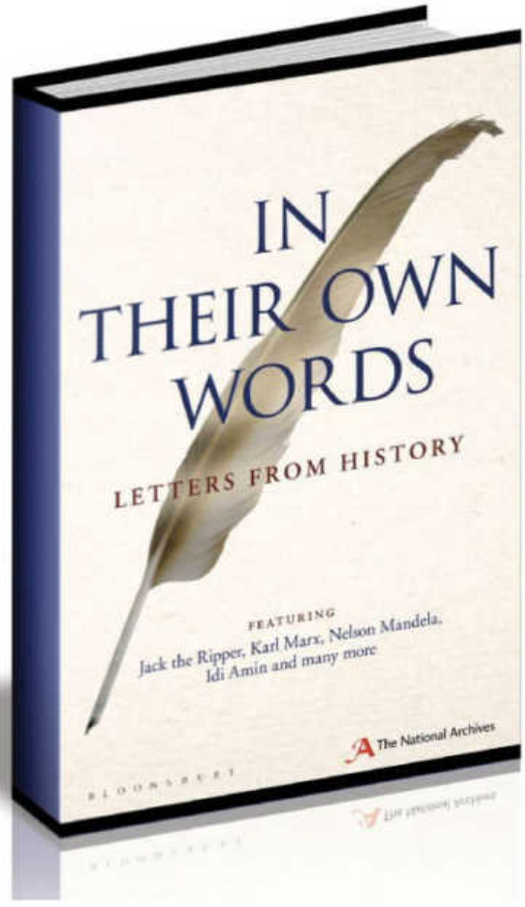
Take a peek at the letters of royalty, spies, presidents and more

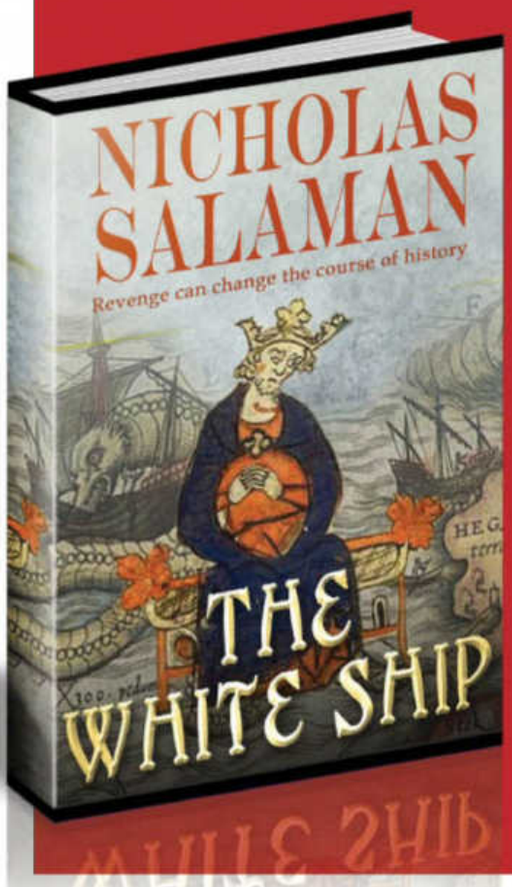
Author The National Archives **Publisher** Bloomsbury
Price £20 **Released** Out now

Would you hesitate before rifling through someone's personal correspondence if the writer were an iconic figure from history? *In Their Own Words* is a hefty coffee table tome containing 80 letters from the past, plucked from more than 100 miles of records secreted at the UK's official government archive. From President Roosevelt requesting US support against Hitler to the King of France, Philip IV, telling his agents to support the Scottish hero William Wallace – every page plunges you into another time and place.

The letters are published in their original format – yellowing pages, ink blots and all – and also helpfully typed out where they are no longer legible. Seeing the loops and swirls of the original handwriting and reading the thoughts and feelings as they tumbled onto the page help to bring these historical figures to life. We also get a sense of their purpose and point of view thanks to short essays that provide historical context, explaining the atmosphere, events and political happenings of the time that each letter was written.

As the contents of this collection span such a vast time period, it risks becoming a jumbled mess that someone might find in a dusty corner of the attic. But some order is established by sorting the letters into themes, such as 'espionage and deception' and 'protest, revolution and rebellion'. This makes it easy to scan the contents for an intriguing topic, or flick through and peruse one at random. There's a range of subjects and emotions covered, from the warning to Lord Monteagle about the Gunpowder Plot to a heartfelt letter from Henry VIII's allegedly adulterous fifth wife. The reader is guaranteed a different and compelling story every time, making this book something to treasure. It's like holding a piece of history in your hands.





THE WHITE SHIP

Re-imagining the past

Author Nicholas Salaman **Publisher** Accent Press **Price** £7.99 **Released** Out now

Salaman's *The White Ship* takes the real-life sinking of the titular vessel, an event that triggered years of civil war over possession of the English Crown, and around it weaves a dark and complex "what if" scenario of political intrigue, illicit affairs and vicious, bloody vengeance, recounted by the tragedy's only known survivor, Bertold – a butcher collecting debts on board when the ship went down.

With the truth of why the ship sank unknown, the author embraces the opportunity to present his version of the events leading up to that dark night, imagining Bertold as the rakish and romantic bastard son of a comte, caught in a passionate affair with the Comtesse Juliana, illegitimate daughter of Henry I, king of England. Led by his heart and quickly becoming embroiled in courtly politics, Bertold variously assumes the roles of tutor, lover, knight, negotiator, and, with the question of how far he will go for the woman he loves arising, would-be assassin, as fate draws him steadily towards the White Ship's doomed voyage.

Salaman's commitment to research is clear, although in places depth of background comes at the cost of narrative pace. Eventually however the story finds its momentum as increasingly despicable acts are committed in the name of duty and honour, and the seeds of discontent and betrayal begin to germinate. As the fateful voyage approaches, the novel morphs from a Medieval love story into a much darker and more exciting narrative. Its final acts are pregnant with the threat of something momentous waiting to happen – a Doomsday Clock keeping time with the actions of a protagonist caught in an increasingly desperate situation. Ultimately, *The White Ship* presents an intriguing and entertaining, if occasionally overwrought, spin on a tragedy for which the cause may always be less clearly understood than its effects.

HISTORY of WAR RECOMMENDS...

Handley Page Halifax: Owners' Workshop Manual

Authors: Jonathan Falcolner

Price: £25 **Publisher:** Haynes Publishing



The Haynes manuals are, of course, a British institution. Having built their reputation with automotive repair guides, they have, in recent years, expanded their repertoire. Of course the "Owners' Workshop Manual" part of the title is a just a bit of fun. If you do happen to have a Handley Page Halifax that needs doing up, don't expect any practical advice. What you will find is a comprehensive look at one of the Britain's key aircraft of World War II. Packed with photographs and technical drawings, this is a comprehensive history of the Halifax.

POISON PANIC

An arsenic-fuelled ride through Victorian Essex

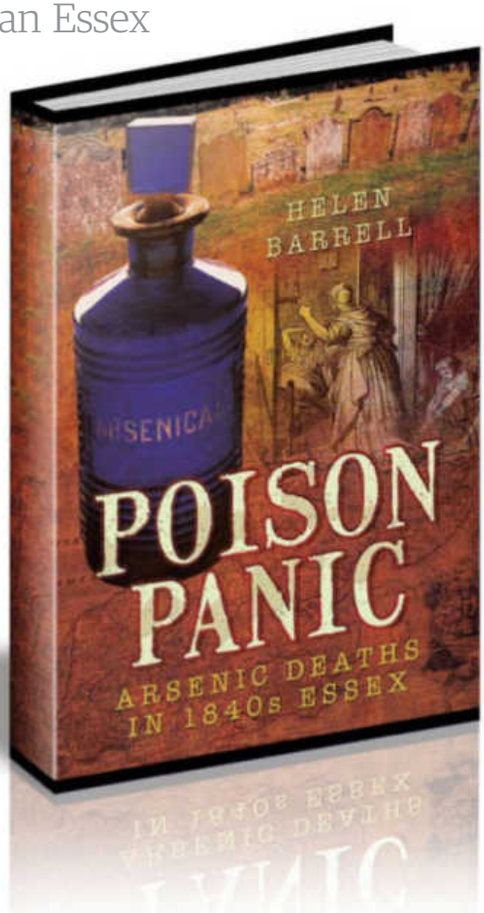
Author Helen Barrell **Publisher** Pen and Sword Books

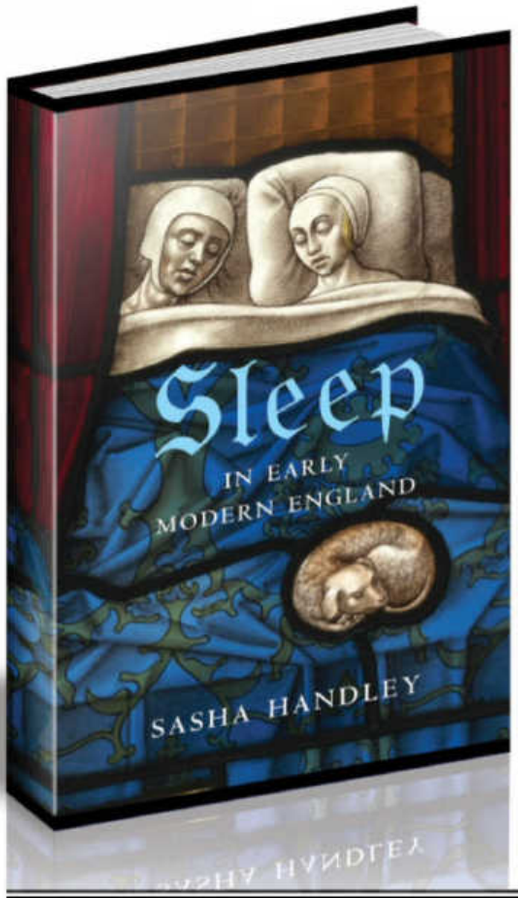
Price £12.99 **Released** Out now

During the 1840s, the eyes of Victorian Britain were turned on Essex where poison, it seemed, was the weapon on choice. On trial for poisoning, Sarah Chesham, Hannah Southgate and Mary May captured the imagination of a country in turmoil. Could Essex really be home to a murderous circle of housewives, hell bent on chaos?

Helen Barrell's *Poison Panic* tells the tale of these three cases that gripped the era, leading to suspicion, fear, and a frenzy for murder. Her research uncovered not only skeletons in her own family closet, but some fascinating stories from the days when arsenic seemed to be everywhere. In untangling the twisting tales of the women, Barrell brings them vividly to life, a richly detailed supporting cast springing from the pages. Her meticulous research and eye for detail recreate the lurking threats, and these scandalous true stories are as compelling as any crime fiction.

Poison Panic takes the reader on a journey through Victorian Essex that leaves no stone unturned, looking not only at the crimes but also at the wider social context. You can see clearly how gossip soon became accepted as fact and how innocence was quickly lost. This book will fascinate not only historians of true crime and those with an interest in genealogy but any reader seeking a story that would make Agatha Christie proud.





SLEEP IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

This compelling new work certainly won't send you to sleep

Author Sasha Handley **Publisher** Yale University Press
Price £25 **Released** Out now

The simple act of settling down for the much sought-after eight hours has become big business, with millions made every year from products as diverse as pharmaceuticals, scientifically balanced bedding and herbal sleep aids, all designed to lull us into restful dreams. What, though, did sleep mean to our early modern ancestors?

In this book, Sasha Handley sets out to explore sleep in the early modern era and examine how habits have developed and evolved over the centuries. She delves into the changing nature of sleep and uncovers how developments in medical science began to challenge superstition and fear, bringing a new awareness of the environmental matters that have an impact on our rest.

Handley draws on a wealth of archival sources to examine how sleep caught the imagination of intellectuals and how what was once a deeply spiritual experience came to fascinate scientists. She also takes readers on a lively tour through the bedrooms of the era, introducing us to the furnishings, linens and layouts that would have been familiar to our ancestors. From the noble to the pauper, Handley shares some eye-opening stories, as well as revealing some of the less palatable and bedbug-ridden truths about early modern sleep.

This is an entertaining and highly illuminating work on a somewhat neglected area, and one that will reward any reader. Covering topics from domestic life to scientific studies, religious ceremony and beyond, *Sleep in Early Modern England* will appeal not only to historians of the era, but to anyone with even the slightest interest in understanding the unconscious.





PATHS OF GLORY

Kubrick's classic mixes WWI myth and reality

Director Stanley Kubrick **Distributor** Eureka Entertainment
Price £19.99 **Released** 19 September on Blu-ray



Based on Humphrey Cobb's 1935 potent anti-war novel, Stanley Kubrick's 1959 epic *Paths Of Glory* tells the story of many interwoven fates in the pursuit and aftermath of a doomed attack on a German strongpoint, with Kirk Douglas's Colonel Dax as the bonding agent.

Set in 1916, this fictional account of a handful being unjustly accused of cowardice when a whole body of men failed to leave their trenches was inspired by the execution of four French corporals at Souain in 1915. It's a potent criticism of vanity, hypocrisy and ego – and a warrior code that demands unquestioning obedience.

The sweeping battlefield vistas and tracking shots of trenches under fire are as truthful a depiction of the Western Front as we'll ever seen on screen, but much of *Paths Of Glory* reflects a particular interpretation of history – that of Kubrick, the blackly humoured peacenik, and Cobb, the embittered veteran of Marne. Hardening the tropes that would bloom into full-blown myths the 1960s, the film demonstrates the obsession with totting up land taken against the lives lost in taking it. This represents an inability to fully understand the nature of World War I – and of attrition warfare in general.

Similarly, the spirit of "lions led by donkeys" – a trite assertion that masks a complexity of motives and circumstances – gets an outing as the French army's real enemies are shown not to dwell in the opposing dugouts, but in elegantly marbled châteaux behind the lines where men are gambled away over aperitifs. Both the book and the film are worthy documents – and as a product of Cobb's own service at Amiens, doubly so – but it is only as a companion to study that *Paths Of Glory* can enhance our understanding of the Great War and the men who pursued it.

How to make... HUMMUS

THE SIMPLE DIP THAT GOES WITH EVERYTHING

MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, 13TH CENTURY ONWARDS



Ingredients

- 1 440g can of chickpeas
- 3-5 tbsp lemon juice
- 1-2 tbsp tahini (or sesame seeds)
- 2 cloves garlic
- Salt
- Olive oil

Enjoyed across the world, hummus has its roots in various different cultures from the Arabic and Levantine realms. The earliest known recipes appear in 13th-century cookbooks, but it's likely it was savoured by people long before. Chickpeas are thought to have been domesticated about 10,000 years ago in the region that is now Turkey and Syria. While the recipe for hummus has been adapted over the ages, the core ingredients have stayed the same: chickpeas and tahini. This ingredient is made from sesame seeds, which has usage documented as early as 3000 BCE.

© Thinkstock

METHOD

01 If you want to be really authentic, you can make your own tahini paste. Begin by toasting the sesame seeds, and then pop them in a blender and blitz into a paste. Add a few teaspoons of olive oil to achieve a smooth consistency.

02 To start making the hummus, drain the can of chickpeas but reserve the water.

03 Add the chickpeas (but keep a few back to garnish), garlic, tahini paste and lemon juice, as well as about 50ml of the reserved chickpea water into a blender.

04 Blend for three to five minutes until the hummus is mixed and at your preferred consistency.

05 Make sure to taste it, and then season as required. If you want to break away from the traditional method, you can also add extra herbs and spices to taste at this point. Blend one last time to mix thoroughly.

06 To finish off, make a well in the centre, add a small amount of olive oil, and place the reserved whole chickpeas on top. Then serve with your favourite dipping bread.

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Sydney Opera House under construction (detail), 1966. Courtesy of Max Dupain Archives/ Eric Sierins

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HISTORY ANSWERS

Send your questions to **questions@historyanswers.co.uk**



The tower is currently 81cm taller on one side than the other

GIOVANNI DI SIMONE

Nationality: Italian
Born-died: Unknown-1284

Brief Bio

Simone was the architect for the second phase of the construction of the Tower of Pisa, which began in 1275. He tried to correct the lean by making the third storey taller on one side. He was killed during the sea battle of Meloria against Genoa, which marked Pisa's decline as a city state.

Why does the Tower of Pisa lean?

Ella Corne

The iconic Italian tower got its distinctive lean fundamentally due to shoddy engineering. The city of Pisa takes its name from the Greek or Etruscan words for 'marshy place'. When construction on the tower began in 1173, the foundations were only dug to a depth of three metres, which wasn't enough for the silt and sand subsoil. On top of this, the water table wasn't level, causing one side of the tower to sink faster than the other. Five years later, when the second storey of the tower had been built, the lean was already obvious. The Medieval engineers tried to compensate by making the tower taller on the sinking side, but the weight of the extra masonry just made it sink even faster.

Fortunately for the architects, construction of the tower was interrupted several times as Pisa warred with neighbouring Genoa, Lucca and Florence, and it wasn't completed until 1372 almost 200 years later. These pauses of several decades at a time allowed the foundations to settle, which reduced the rate of tilting and probably saved the tower from collapsing altogether. In 1995, one of the many preservation measures made the lean much worse again, but the drainage system installed in 2003 does seem to have finally stabilised the tower.

Is this the most peaceful period in history?

Samuel Johnson

By some measures, it is. The four major armed conflicts happening today (Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and the Boko Haram insurgency in Africa) are all relatively minor compared to the wars of territorial expansion that occurred in the previous 2,000 years. But the statistician Nassim Nicholas Taleb has argued that the historical death toll from war is dominated by the effect of a few very large conflicts that are fairly evenly distributed throughout history. The 75-year time period between World War II and now is only about half the average gap between wars of this size, so it is too soon to draw any conclusions about the long-term trend.



The Three Kingdoms period of China (220-280) is thought to be the second bloodiest conflict, after World War II

This day in history 15 September

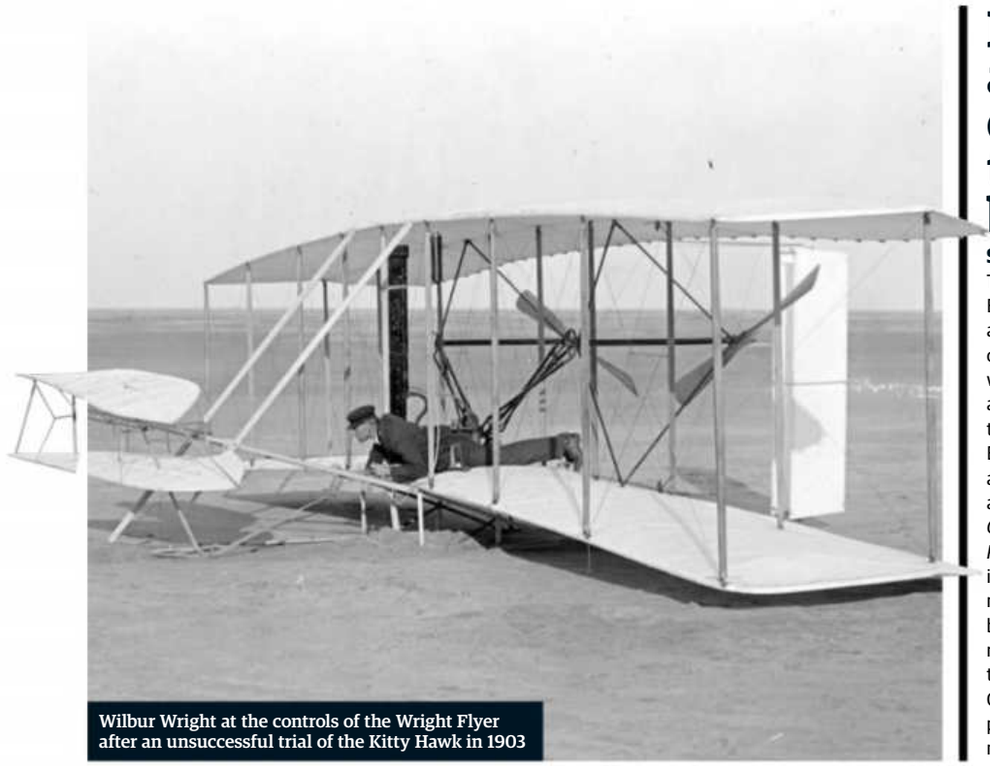
668 — Constans II murdered
The Byzantine emperor is clubbed to death in his bath possibly with a soap dish wielded by his chamberlain. The assassination also kills the Eastern Roman Empire's last chance of recapturing the Middle East.

1440 — Serial killer arrested
Gilles de Rais, a knight who fought alongside Joan of Arc, is finally arrested, and he confesses to the sexual abuse and murder of between 80 and 200 children. He would be hanged a month later.



1616 — First free school opens
In Frascati, near Rome, Spanish Catholic priest Joseph Calasanz opens the first free school in Europe. He would go on to found the Order of the Pious Schools (the Piarists), which continues today.

1830 — Liverpool and Manchester Railway opens
The opening of the first locomotive-drawn railway to connect two major cities draws huge crowds. Tragedy strikes when William Huskisson, MP for Liverpool, falls on the tracks and is killed by Stephenson's Rocket.



Wilbur Wright at the controls of the Wright Flyer after an unsuccessful trial of the Kitty Hawk in 1903

Did paper aeroplanes exist before the Wright brothers?

Sarah Simmons

The Chinese had paper kites in 500 BCE and Leonardo da Vinci designed and built a paper glider, but both of these probably used bamboo or wooden struts, so don't really qualify as paper aeroplanes as we normally think of them. Before the Wright Brothers, the words aeroplane or airplane weren't used, but paper aeroplanes definitely existed. *Cassell's Complete Book Of Sports And Pastimes*, published in 1896, includes illustrated instructions for how to make the standard paper aeroplane, but calls it a "paper dart". The earliest reference to paper darts comes from the memoirs of the comic actor Charles Mathews. He recalls throwing paper darts into the wig of his school master in 1786.

YOUR TWEETS

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What an incredible film [Kubrick's *Paths Of Glory*] **@combatcamerauk**

The Dutch town Schiedam was also very famous for its witch trials. Some dark pages in local history. **@DirkList**

Thank you for documenting how unhistoric #Battlefield1 is. I appreciate it! **@AbrahamBlondeau**

Found **@AboutHistoryMag** at Barnes and Noble. Decided it would be great to subscribe to and then I saw it was published in the UK. :(**@julesvern97**

@AboutHistoryMag absolutely loved the folk of the Faraway Tree & those tales when I was little, thanks for the reminder :) #FolkloreThursday **@SamNicT1303**

What was so great about Catherine the Great?

Charlie Gardiner

Catherine II was empress of Russia from 1762-96. Her reputation rests partly on Russia's huge military conquests, but she also improved education and bureaucracy and championed the ideas of the European Enlightenment. Her 34-year reign also has the advantage of coming between those of two fairly undistinguished monarchs. Her husband Peter III was overthrown after just six months in a coup orchestrated by Catherine herself, while her heir Paul was on the throne for just five years before being assassinated.



Although Catherine II took many lovers, the more scandalous rumours regarding her sex life were invented by her detractors



Did bubonic plague put Henry VIII on the throne? Find out at... historyanswers.co.uk

1835

HMS Beagle reaches Galápagos

Three years and nine months into its five-year voyage, HMS Beagle drops anchor in the Galápagos archipelago. Passenger Charles Darwin will make one of his key evolutionary insights by studying the finches there.



1935

Germany adopts swastika

The 2,000-year-old Hindu and Buddhist symbol had been in use by the Nazi Party since 1920, but in 1935, the swastika becomes the sole national flag of the German Third Reich.

1959

Khrushchev visits USA

The first Soviet leader to visit the USA tours the IBM facility in California. Nikita Khrushchev isn't impressed by the computers, but takes the idea of the self-service cafeteria back to the USSR.

1968

Zond 5 launched

Two tortoises become the first animals to travel around the Moon aboard this Russian spacecraft. They return safely to Earth seven days later. The mission also takes high-quality photos of Earth from 90,000 kilometres up.

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AMAZING STORIES



British ambassador Sir Charles Arden-Clarke enjoys the celebrations in the lead up to independence

Independence Day

Grahame Smith recalls the birth of a new nation, as the Gold Coast became Ghana

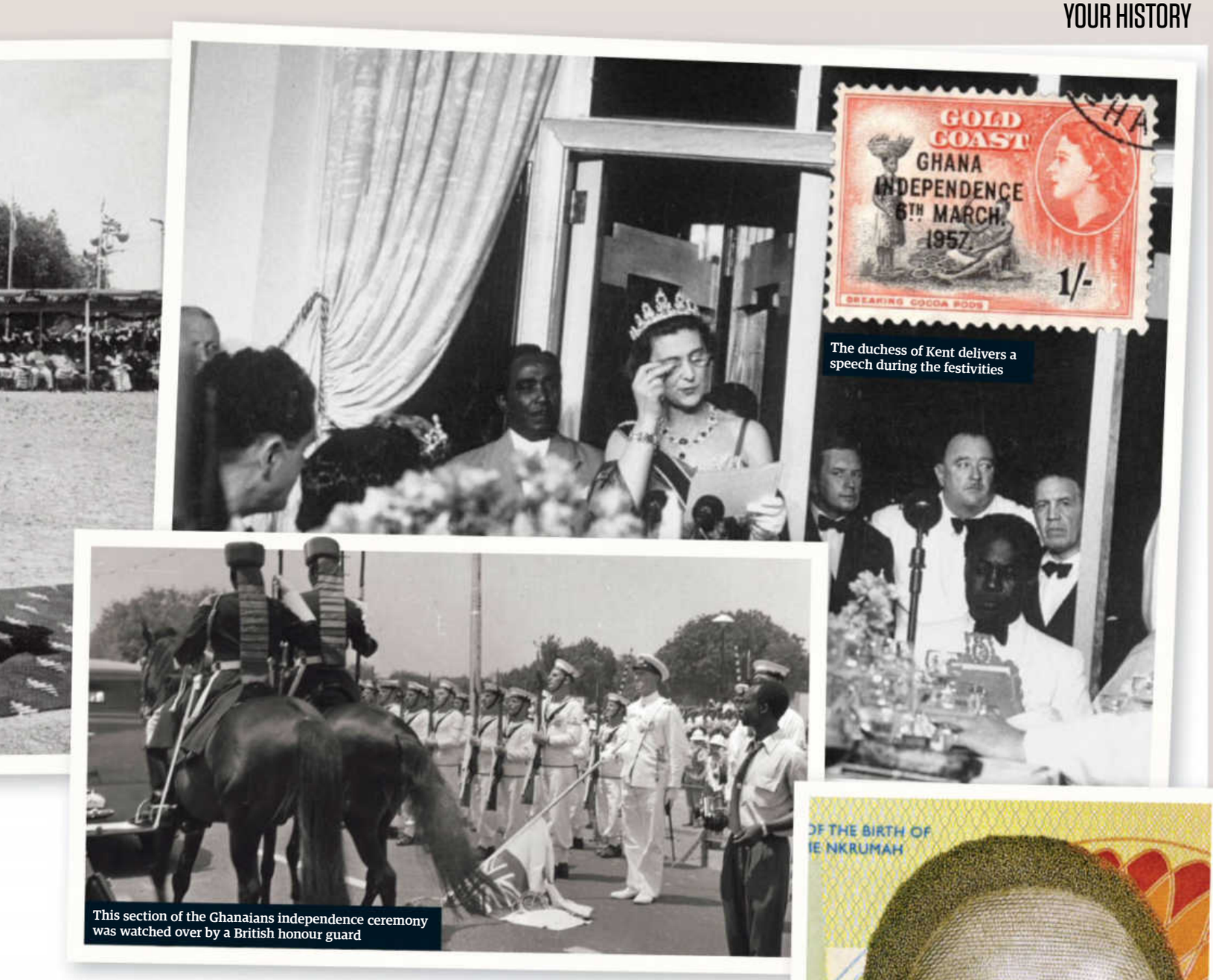


Grahame Smith
I guess not many people are around who were present when Britain handed independence over to one of its former colonies, but I was present when Britain gave its West African Colony, the Gold Coast, its freedom on 6 March 1957. They called their new country Ghana – the name of an ancient kingdom in the area – and it was the build-up to a memorable a week of activities and rejoicing.

As a civil engineer working for a large British construction company, I was running a contract to clean up the roads of the capital, Accra, and make them ready for the parades and VIP motorcades that were planned for the independence celebrations. The entire week running up to 6 March was given over to schoolchildren dancing and football matches, as well as exciting surfboat racing in the harbour.

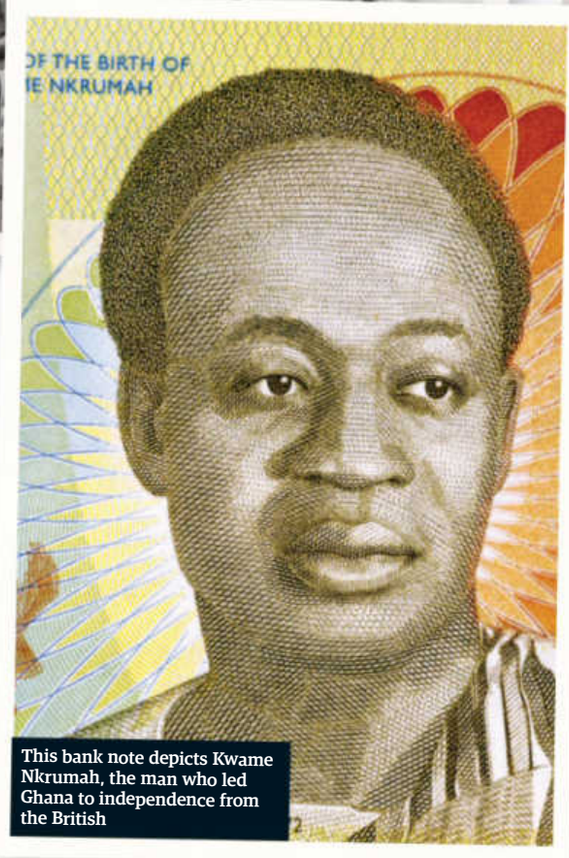
One event in the run up to independence that was really remarkable was a massive durbar (inaugural celebration) held on a school cricket ground where all the area and village chiefs of Ghana came to swear loyalty to the new prime minister, Dr Kwame Nkrumah. I had an old-fashioned 8mm cine camera and although I captured their colourful robes, the gold plate on their chests and glittering crowns on their heads (not to mention the dust), I couldn't record the incredible noise of drums, trumpets and singing that you would be able to with a modern video camera today. An African colleague said that he thought that there would never again be such a large gathering of paramount chiefs and village chiefs as we saw that day.

Send your memories to: @ allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk



The duchess of Kent delivers a speech during the festivities

This section of the Ghanaians independence ceremony was watched over by a British honour guard



This bank note depicts Kwame Nkrumah, the man who led Ghana to independence from the British

Saturday 6 March dawned hot and humid as usual. Along with hundreds of other spectators, we took our place on the stands that had been erected on the processional route – ladies in hats and gloves and men in ties and tropical suits. At noon, when the procession of children, army units, scouts and guides, VIP cars and marching bands was over, Princess Marina, the duchess of Kent, handed over the Instruments of Independence to Dr Nkrumah. The Gold Coast had become the Republic of Ghana and the cheers were long and loud.

But the celebrations were far from over. The flag of the new nation of Ghana was due to be raised at midnight. Our manager in Accra thought it was best if we ex-pats stayed in our billets, saying: "After all, it is the Ghanaians big night." So there we were, my two colleagues and I, playing cards in our apartment and no doubt listening to Mantovani's Strings on an LP record, when at about 10.30pm, half a dozen of our Ghanaian HQ staff burst into the room and insisted we accompany them to the flag-raising ceremony. It would have been churlish to refuse, so we joined hundreds of others making their way to the polo ground where the flag raising was to be performed.

At 11.55pm, the police band played *God Save The Queen* for the last time and the Union Jack was carefully lowered. I guess it was given to the British governor – who was now out of a job! Then at midnight, the flag of Ghana with its central 'Black Star of Africa' was raised as the band played the new national anthem. The crowd went wild; there were hugs, tears and kisses all round. It was an unforgettable night.

Do you have any family stories to share? /AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag

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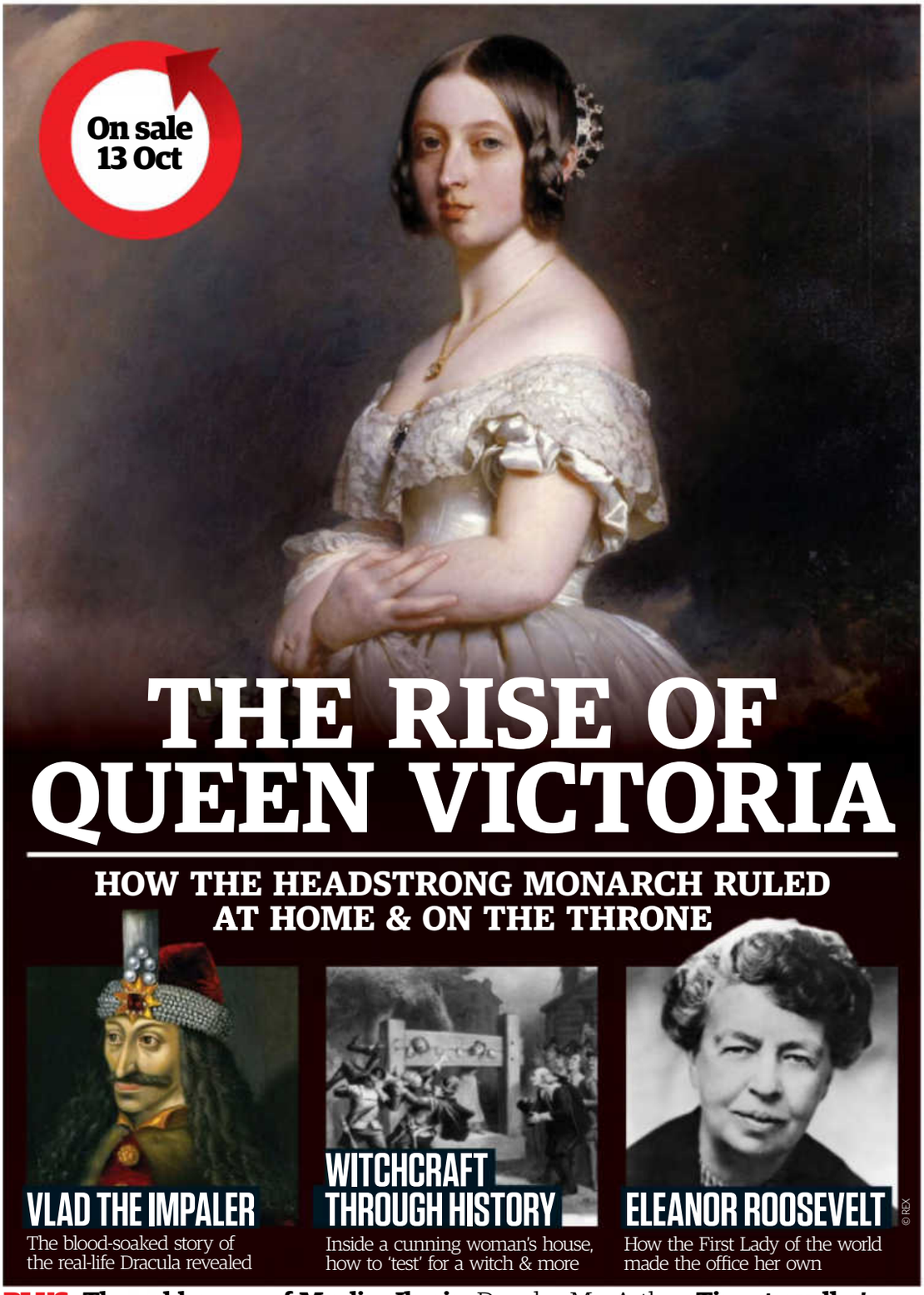
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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



BRIDGE OF SPIES

Director: Steven Spielberg **Starring:** Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance **Country:** USA **Released:** 2015

Is Steven Spielberg's Cold War thriller lukewarm on the facts?

VERDICT There are more hits than misses in this ambitious spy flick

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 The film depicts the Berlin Wall being built in daylight; it was actually constructed overnight. Also, a CIA agent mentions the plan to "wall off the entire eastern sector" of Berlin; in fact, the wall was built surrounding the entire western half of the city.



02 Donovan's family home was never actually shot at by a gunman, although he did receive angry calls and various threats because of his role in defending Rudolf Abel. Donovan's wife and children were also alienated by their friends because of the trial.



03 American student Frederic Pryor was not in fact arrested attempting to cross the Berlin Wall during its construction – he was in Denmark at the time. He was, however, under suspicion because of his dissertation on communist economics.



04 Mark Rylance's slightly Scottish-sounding interpretation of Rudolf Abel's accent is a little off from the real-life Rudolf Abel, who was born in Newcastle upon Tyne. Rylance was even accosted by the musician Sting, who is himself a Geordie by birth.



WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT...

James Donovan really was selected to defend Soviet spy Rudolf Abel because of his role during the Nuremburg Trials. It is also accurate that he did act almost completely alone in his negotiations with the Russians and East Germans while arranging the release of Gary Powers and Frederic Pryor.



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